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MARITAL QUALITY AND EXPRESSIONS OF SEX ROLE OVER THE TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD

by

© E. JANE LIGOWSKI

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

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OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

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ABSTRACT

This research used the systems framework to view the family during the transition to parenthood. The impact of the transition on the individual subsystem's sex role expressions and their marital quality was assessed through the examination of thirty-one couples prenatally and immediately after delivery of their first child.

Sex role identity, an expression of sex role examined in this study, was measured using Bem's Sex Role Inventory (1974). A scale assessing the partners' involvement in the work role, the home role and the child care role examined gender role behavior, the other expression of sex role operationalized in this research. Marital quality was quantified through the use of Spanier's (1976) Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

The statistical techniques, analysis of variance and Pearson-r correlation determined the relationships between the variables, sex role expressions and marital quality over the transition to parenthood. The couple was utilized as the unit of analysis.

In general, the findings showed that the transition event impacts more heavily on the individual subsystem than on the couple relationship. Gender role behavior became more traditional for both partners after the birth. There was a demonstration that man's sex role identity moves toward expressiveness, and that this move was important for both their own and their spouse's marital quality. Implications for family life education and possible future research avenues were discussed.

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CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Family transition periods are those short times of change during the life cycle which bridge longer periods of family stability. They are brought about by a change in family structure, a change in role importance or a change in the normative content of roles (Rodgers, 1973, p. 49). During transition times old, no longer effective, role behaviors are shed and new role behaviors are developed and assumed. Researchers have found these periods of behavior change within the family a fruitful source of investigative activity. For example, Rapoport and Rapoport (1967) studied the honeymoon as the transition period between courtship and the "beginning family stage" (Duvall, 1967, p. 9). More recently retirement has been examined (Keating & Marshall, 1980) as a transition period between the "family in the middle years" and the "aging family" (Duvall, 1967, p. 9).

Feldman (1963 in Rowe, 1966, p. 201) found the transition to parenthood to be one of the three most significant transitions in the family life cycle. The parenthood transition is brought about by the addition of a dependent family member and necessitates the incorporation of the parent role to the already established marital role (Solomon, 1973). The magnitude or intensity of the marital changes brought about by the addition of this new role remains a question because most previous investigations into that period collected data only after the baby was born. Early researchers (Dyer, 1963; LeMasters,

1957) suggested that the role reorganization during transition reached crisis proportions for most couples. Only Dyer found marital strength (1963, p. 198) to be significantly correlated with less crisis. Succeeding researchers (Hobbs, 1965, 1968; Hobbs & Cole, 1976; Hobbs & Wimbish, 1977; Meyerowitz & Feldman, 1966; Russell, 1974; Wente & Crackenberg, 1976) found the transition to be problematic but not of crisis proportions. Most of these researchers however continued to discern a small relationship between marital quality and transition difficulty. Because these studies found marital quality to be important and since they did so on the basis of a one shot design, the logical next step would be to validate the presence or absence of significant marital quality changes over the transition to parenthood. The research introduced here was designed to take this into consideration.

Other variables that predicted transition difficulties seemed to vary with the sex of the respondent. This finding led the researcher to consider individual sex role expressions as a family variable which may or may not change over the transition and which may or may not be related to marital quality at this time. Writers in the family area support the notion of a relationship between the individual's sex role and marital quality over the transition to parenthood. Rossi (1968) predicts that the new parental role behaviors are incompatible with society's normative ideas of how men and women behave. For example, she suggests that the cuddling and care taking behaviors a father needs to take on as a parent do not naturally flow from his basic role inclinations. Scanzoni and Fox (1980) report that difficulties with these sex role changes will be reflected in the

couples' assessment of their marital quality and the research introduced here will test this generalization further.

The aforementioned support and direction from past family research encouraged the investigator to carry out this examination into sex role expressions and marital quality over the transition to parenthood. By coincidence, this research follows up on the expressed need for more empirical research on marital quality over the life span as suggested in the last two decade reviews of the relevant family literature (Hicks & Platt, 1970; Spanier & Lewis, 1980). More practically, if it is found that there are associated changes in sex role expressions and marital quality over the parenthood experience, intervention in the form of support or education at the marital and personal levels as well as that presently carried out at the parental level of the family system, could be planned by health and family workers who provide care for expectant and new parents.

STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between expressions of sex role and marital quality over the immediate period of the transition to parenthood.

Subproblems

The first subproblem was to compare and contrast expressions of sex role for couples over the transition to parenthood.

The second subproblem was to compare and contrast expressions of marital quality for couples over the transition to parenthood.

The third subproblem was to examine the relationship between expressions of sex role and marital quality for couples before and

after the transition to parenthood.

The fourth subproblem was to examine the relationship between changes in expressions of sex role over the transition to parenthood and marital quality for couples after the transition to parenthood.

The fifth subproblem was to examine the relationship between changes in expressions of sex role for couples over the transition to parenthood and changes in marital quality for couples over the transition to parenthood.

DEFINITIONS

In this thesis several sociopsychological terms or concepts have been used. These are the core variables of this study. They are defined below.

Sex Role Expressions

Sex role expressions include an individual's subjective preference of sex role or sex role identity as well as the individual's gender behavior evolved within the family setting.

Marital Quality

Spanier's (1976, p. 17) definition of marital quality was used as a guide. He defined marital quality as the process of adjustment which consists of those events, circumstances and interactions which move a couple or dyad along a continuum stretching from good to poor adjustment.

ASSUMPTIONS AND DELIMITATIONS

For this research to be planned and carried out several assumptions and delimitations needed to be made. They appear below.

Assumptions

The first pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing experience is a period of role reorganization for the individual and family.

The sexual aspect of personality is fluid and changes over the life cycle.

Delimitations

This study is limited to the examination of primipara natural parents who reside together during the pregnancy and early child rearing stages.

This study is further limited to the examination of the time between confirmation of conception, and slightly more than four weeks after the delivery of the first child. For the purposes of this research, this time will be assumed to encompass the transition to parenthood.

In addition, this study is limited to the examination of respondents who report that their birth experience and newborn's health fall within a normal range.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In summary, this research will answer the following questions:

(1) Are there changes in expressions of sex role for couples over the transition to parenthood?

(2) Does marital quality change for couples over the transition to parenthood?

(3) Is there a relationship between expressions of sex role and marital quality for couples either before or after the transition to parenthood?

(4) If there are changes in expressions of sex role, are they related to marital quality after the parenthood transition?

(5) If there are changes in expressions of sex role, are they related to changes in marital quality over the parenthood transition?

CHAPTER II

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for this study must explain the interaction between the individual and marital levels of behavior outlined in the statement of the problem. In addition the framework must conceptualize the social context and passage of time implicit in the prenatal-post partum setting needed to carry out the purpose of the research. A melding of the developmental and systems theories has been proposed as one way of fulfilling these requirements.

Hill (1972) in his discussion of systems theory and its application to the family points out that the joining of systems theory and the family developmental framework is desirable and possible. He outlined (1972, p. 11) four prerequisite assumptions which need to be explored if such a melded framework is to be successfully operationalized to explain the interaction between individual expressions of sex role and marital quality over the transition to parenthood. They are stated and discussed below:

(1) The family is a system.

(2) The family system has an interrelated structure.

(3) Family interaction is goal oriented.

(4) Family systems evolve and change.

THE FAMILY IS A SYSTEM

Buckley (1967, p. 41) refers to a system as a set of things or parts that are more or less consistently related to each other. Implicit in this notion of a system are the concepts of parts and relationships.

When the family is considered as a system, the actors (Rodgers, 1973) or family members (Broderick & Smith, 1979) become defined as the parts or system units. In the study under discussion the family members before the birth of the first child are the male partner and the female partner in the dyad. After the birth, the newborn becomes an actor in the family drama. Neither the newborn nor its participation in the system is directly examined by this research. The newborn remains for this research part of the social context only.

The family system may be further divided into subsystems. These subsystems include the individual subsystems, the marital subsystem and the parental subsystems. The marital subsystem is the object of this study's major investigation into marital quality. This research also examines the individual subsystem's sex role identity, which is an expression of the interplay between the person's physical, cognitive and emotional subsystems. An additional focus is on the behavioral aspect of the individual subsystem's sex role identity called gender role behavior in this study. Only the parental subsystem, that is, the subsystem consisting of a parent and a child, is not investigated in this research.

Just enumerating the parts of a system does not define it. As Hill (1972) points out, the systems concept includes relationships or interaction between the parts.

THE FAMILY SYSTEM HAS AN INTERRELATED STRUCTURE

One way to define the relationship between the parts or members of a system is to adopt a standardized set of positions or roles that can be held to exist in all families (Broderick & Smith,

1979, p. 113). Inherent in this method of approaching family interaction is the need to understand the classical sociological concepts of norm, role, role behavior, position, role cluster and role complex.

Norm and Role

According to Rodgers (1973, p. 16) norms are the basic building blocks of groups. For families, norms are general, learned behavioral expectations which are held in common by the family members. Roles are smaller packages of behavioral expectations which the family holds for each member.

Norms and roles are tapped indirectly by this research, in so far as they are the basis of sex role expressions and marital role behavior.

Role Behavior

Role behavior, on the other hand, is what the family members actually do. An outcome of this research will be a compiling of the partners' perceptions of aspects of how the individual's sex roles and marital roles are enacted.

Position and Role Cluster

A family position is an accumulation or cluster of all the roles which belong together for one member. This research examines only marital and individual sex role behavior over a period of time during which the additional role of parent is added to the position of each member of the dyad.

Role Complex

"The role cluster of two or more positions in a system at

any point in its history is a role complex of that system" (Rodgers, 1973, p. 19). The role complex of major interest in this investigation is that of the marital subsystem. This interest is projected in the selection of marital role and gender role behavior as it is evolved within the marital subsystem as foci of study.

Hill (1972) proposes that in addition to structure and relationship, goal direction or task performance needs to be examined to gain more complete understanding of the relationship between the parts of a system.

FAMILY INTERACTION IS GOAL ORIENTED

Family theorists developed the notion of functional prerequisites and family tasks to deal with the goal level of interaction.

Functional Prerequisites

Functional prerequisites are large scale goals or activities that must be performed if society is to survive. Winch (1963, p. 14) suggests a typical list:

(1) Replacements for dying members of society must be provided.

(2) Goods and services must be produced and distributed for the support of the members of the society.

(3) There must be provision for accommodating conflicts and maintaining order internally and externally.

(4) Human replacements must be trained to become participating members of the society.

(5) There must be procedures for dealing with emotional crises, for harmonizing the goals of individuals with the

values of the society, and for maintaining a sense of purpose.

These functions refer to the necessities for continuance of the society and not necessarily to the functions which a given society may allocate to the family system for the continuance of the society as a whole. This research is built on the belief that the family has a significant role in activities one and five described above. It examined the harmonizing of marital goals and purposes over the period during which a new member of society is born. That is, this society values the marriage relationship and this research looked at how couples deal with this marital issue over the transition to parenthood.

Family Tasks

The family system contains within it specific norms and roles (Rodgers, 1973, p. 51) defined as tasks such that if they are incorporated by the occupant of the position as a role or part of a role cluster, integration, equilibrium and continuance of the system of role complexes will be insured. The notion of family tasks has been extensively explored by Duvall (1967). She outlines family tasks which are aimed at maintaining system equilibrium for eight stages of family life. The tasks are divided along sexual lines and the division of the family stages is along child bearing, child rearing and child launching themes. Although Duvall's conceptualization is adequate for this present study, it has been criticized because she has failed to consider that in today's society, there is a move toward more equality between the sexes and toward the living of family life in

alternate styles. All this does not mean that there is not family and individual tasks which function to maintain the family at various times in family history, indeed, there probably are. They just need to be meaningfully developed for use in the 21st century.

Family tasks are significant to this research in that they are the new goals toward which the expectant and new parents struggle during the transition to parenthood. This is the social context of this investigation.

To this point the conceptualization has dealt with a general family system with positions, relationships between positions, and goals which direct behavior. The need to address the issue of development and change within the system was the final issue pointed out by Hill (1972).

FAMILY SYSTEMS EVOLVE AND CHANGE

As discussed previously there are family stages, eight as developed by Duvall (1967), during which time the enactment of the accompanying family tasks fulfill the needs of system and bring about system equilibrium. Rodgers (1973, p. 49) points out that there are several sources of stimulation which could bring about change in family stages. They include: a variation in structure of the family, a shift in importance of roles, and a shift in the normative content of roles. The transition to parenthood, which is the social context of this research fulfills all of these change criteria. The birth of the newborn increases the family size thus altering its structure. The parental role is formed and gains relevance perhaps lessening the importance of the marital role. In addition new family tasks or norms

become goals for the new and future family role behavior. At the time of transition, each subsystem of the family is confronted with the need to change. The concept of system carried with it the idea that change in one part brings about change in other parts of the system (Hill, 1972). This research is interested in tracing relationships between changes in the individual subsystem's sex role expressions and changes in the marital subsystem's role adjustment.

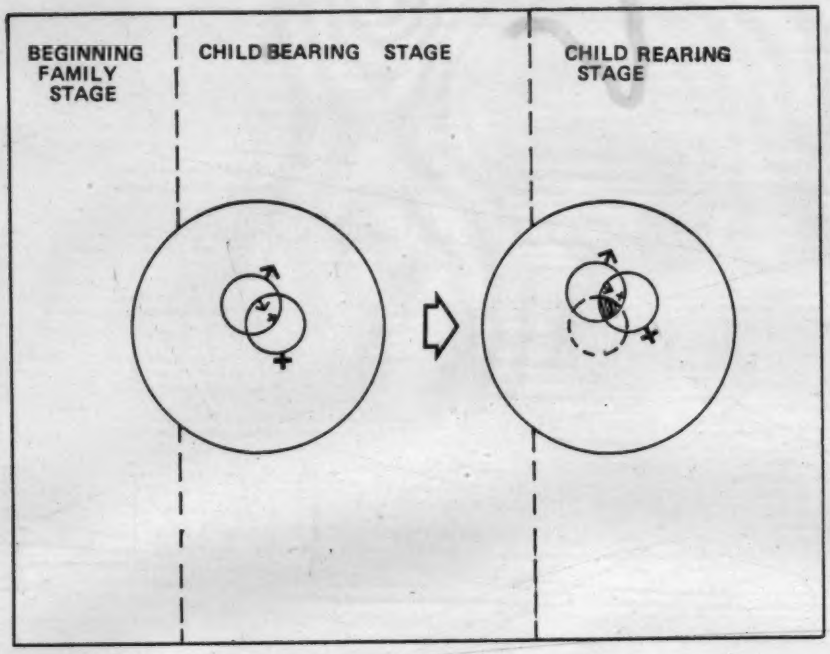
SUMMARY

The conceptualization described in this chapter is summarized in Figure 2.1. It depicts the partners of a dyadic relationship as the two intersecting circles within the large family system circle. The overlapping area represents the marital subsystem. After the transition to parenthood, the added structural element of the newborn is shown as a dotted subsystem because it is not directly tested by the research. The overlapping area between the couple and the child is the parental subsystem. It is also not directly examined in this research. The figure shows that in theory change in the family system, in this case, the addition of a family member and the addition of the parental subsystem, should bring about change in each other subsystem.

The proposition which follows describes the likely outcome of the research based on family developmental framework concepts of change.

(1) The addition of the newborn to the family structure should change the enactment of individual marital roles.

The systems framework with its conceptualization of change makes it possible for the following subsequent proposition to be made.



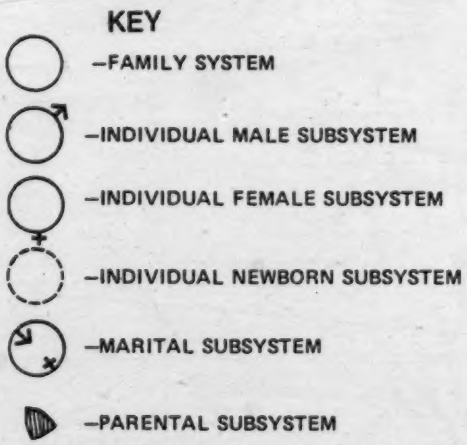


Figure 2.1 Illustration of Conceptual Framework

(2) Change in the individual subsystems' sex role identity and gender role behavior should bring about sympathetic alterations within the marital subsystem.

In summary, this conceptualization utilized the developmental theorists' notion that structural change to the family will bring about role and role behavior changes. In this case the structural change is the addition of a newborn in the family configuration. This idea of structural change is augmented by the system theory premise that change in one portion of the family brings about change in the remaining family parts. Therefore in this case, a sex role change in the individual subsystem, as brought about by the birth, will be reflected in marital role changes in the marital subsystem.

CHAPTER III

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The family transition which involves the addition of the parenting role to both the individual's role cluster and the marital subsystem's role complex has attracted a significant level of scholarly interest. Past theorists and investigators of the transition to parenthood have developed and tested a variety of premises concerning the importance of and the interaction between these subsystems and other relevant variables. This researcher took the view that the first parenting event primarily impacts on the marital subsystem through the individual subsystem.

To be more specific, the research described here explored changes in the individual partners' sex role expressions and possible relationships between such changes and relevant changes in marital quality over the transition to parenthood. In order to provide a background for this exploration, the literature related to the following areas was reviewed:

(1) The nature of the parenthood transition;

(2) The nature of marital quality and sex role expressions; and

(3) The relationship between sex role expressions and marital quality over the transition to parenthood.

THE NATURE OF THE TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD

The nature of the parenthood transition has two aspects. One

is the developmental view and the other thrust involves an examination of the effect it has on the participant systems. Most, if not all, theorists and empirists have viewed the transition to parenthood using some components of the family developmental framework. There has however been some academic discussion as to whether the changes necessitated by the transition gives rise to crisis or not. For these reasons the review of the literature presented here will focus firstly on the transition as a developmental stage for the family and finally on the effects the transition changes have on the participants.

The Development of the Transition to Parenthood

Rodgers (1973) proposes that the process of entering or leaving a social role should be known as role transition. The necessary early parenthood behaviors which are the goal of the transition have been listed by Duvall (1967) as developmental tasks (see below). These tasks are simply new norms and roles which, if incorporated by the new parent in his or her behavior, should lead to family equilibrium.

Developmental Tasks of Parents During the Childbearing Phase

Tasks of the Mother of the Infant and Young Child

(1) Reconciling conflicting conceptions of roles.

(2) Accepting and adjusting to the strains and pressures of young motherhood.

(3) Learning how to care for her infant with competence and assurance.

(4) Establishing and maintaining healthful routines for the young family.

(5) Providing full opportunities for the child's development.

(6) Sharing the responsibilities of parenthood with her husband.

(7) Maintaining a satisfying relationship with her husband.

(8) Making satisfactory adjustments to the practical realities of life.

(9) Keeping alive some sense of personal autonomy through young motherhood.

(10) Exploring and developing the satisfying sense of being a family.

Tasks of the Father of the Infant and Young Child

(1) Reconciling conflicting conceptions of role.

(2) Making way for the new pressures made upon him as young father.

(3) Learning the basic essentials of baby and child care.

(4) Conforming to the new regimens designed as most healthful for the young family.

(5) Encouraging the child's full development.

(6) Maintaining a mutually satisfying companionship with his wife.

(7) Assuming the major reponsibility for earning the family income.

(8) Maintaining a satisfying sense of self as a man.

(9) Representing the family within the wider community.

(10) Becoming a family man in the fullest sense of the term.

(Duvall, 1967, p. 193-200.)

Considerable theoretical and empirical work has been carried out on illuminating the transition process itself. Once again Duvall (1967), pioneered the exploration of this process by devising more goals called developmental tasks of the expectant family. These other tasks or activities (see below) take place during the pregnancy period.

Developmental Tasks of the Beginning Family: Expectant Phase

(1) arranging for the physical care of the expected baby
(2) developing new patterns for getting and spending income
(3) reevaluating procedures for determining who does what and where authority rests
(4) adapting patterns of sexual relationships to pregnancy
(5) expanding communication systems for present and anticipated emotional needs
(6) reorienting relationships with relatives
(7) adapting relationships with friends, associates, and community activities to the realities of pregnancy
(8) acquiring knowledge about and planning for the specifics of pregnancy, childbirth, and parenthood
(9) maintaining morale and a workable philosophy of life.

(Duvall, 1967, p. 159.)

On closer examination of these tasks, it is apparent that for the expectant family and for the parenting family there are important developmental goals for both the individual and the marital pair. These tasks seem to be at maintenance of the marital relationship on both a general (e.g., "maintaining a satisfying

relationship with her husband/his wife") and a sexual level (e.g., "adapting patterns of sexual relationships to pregnancy.") In addition both sets of tasks allude to the practical aspects of family life (e.g., "the practical realities of life"/"determining who does what"). Finally Duvall places emphasis on the personal subsystem through the developmental tasks: "keeping alive some sense of personal autonomy through young motherhood"; "maintaining a satisfying sense of self as a man". These tasks as discussed above, both directed and supported the researcher's purpose to examine the nature of the changes and relationships between sex role identity, gender role behavior, and marital quality over the transition to parenthood.

It is important to note that Duvall's developmental tasks are general. Many researchers (Clark, 1979; Colman & Colman, 1971; Klaus, Jerauld, Kreger, McAlpine, Steffa, & Kennell, 1972; Rossi, 1968; Rubin, 1961a, 1961b, 1963, 1970) in both the family and health fields have refined these process tasks making them more useful to researchers and practitioners alike. What follows is an analysis of these writers' ideas. The purpose of this presentation is to familiarize the reader with the developmental nature of the parental transition event, and to point out the theoretical importance of and relationships between the variables, sex role identity, gender role behavior, and marital quality.

Rossi (1968) used the four broad stages of a role cycle as originally developed for the marital role by Raush, Goodrich and Campbell (1963, in Rossi, 1968) to briefly explore the development of the parent role. The four stages presented were:

(1) anticipatory stage

(2) honeymoon stage

(3) plateau stage

(4) disengagement-termination stage.

The first three stages are presented in detail here because they apply to the immediate transition time examined in this research project. Rossi was sparce in her description of the stages so other relevant writers were incorporated into the appropriate discussions.

Anticipatory Stage

In the case of taking on the parenting role, the anticipatory stage can be said to encompass the time of pregnancy (Rossi, 1968). Clark (1979) operationalized Colman and Colman's (1971) case study data by outlining four detailed tasks of pregnancy which although they are addressed to the mother-to-be only, give a clear idea of how the unknown entity, the fetus, is begun to be brought into the family at least in the mind of the woman. The first task is pregnancy validation. Its aim is the acceptance of the pregnancy and its implications. The second task is fetal embodiment. During this phase the fetus is incorporated into the body image and the woman's relationship with her mother and husband is reviewed. Fetal distinction is the third prenatal task of pregnancy. The mother begins to formulate a personal, unique mothering identity separate and apart from how she was mothered. Clark calls the fourth task, role transition. During this period the mother prepares to give up the fetus, to experience labor and delivery and to mother the new born infant. All of these tasks and their accompanying behavior are part of what Rubin (1970) calls taking-on-

the mothering role.

According to Rubin (1970) the mother works through the two dimensions of time and identity in the nine months that pregnancy affords her. She moves from a 'who me' and a 'not now' stand to a 'yes me' 'now' stance at the pregnancy's termination. Such well developed process tasks have not been proposed for the father-to-be. Obviously similar tasks must exist, but their attainment does not seem to be at the same level and the psychic work involved in their achievement may be less intense. This would seem to be a reasonable assumption, because the process of transition described by Clark (1979) is directly linked to the physical development of the fetus, thus strengthening the mother's identification and by implication, diluting the father's. In any case this assumed lag and/or decreased intensity of fetal identification by the father may be a source of strain between the couple during the anticipatory stage of role attainment.

Honeymoon Stage

Rossi envisioned the honeymoon stage of the parental role to be that post childbirth period during which, through intimacy and prolonged contact, an attachment between parent and child is laid down. She postulated that since this is where fantasy is validated or corrected by the reality of a specific individual child, there is great interpersonal learning and adjustment for both parents during this period. Rubin (1961a, 1961b, 1963) and Klaus et al. (1972) have identified how maternal-child bonding occurs in the early days. Initially the mother must recover from the physical and psychological shock of giving birth. For a few days she turns in and both psychic

and bodily healing occur as she eats, rests and reviews her labour and delivery. After about two days she turns to the newborn with energy and begins to identify it as her own through observation and touch. Blue periods cycle during the six weeks after delivery. It is during these periods that the old norms and roles are 'let go'.

Fathers use a similar sequence of review of events and visual and tactile experiences to attach themselves to the new child. Since they have less opportunity to carry out these behaviors, their bond may be more tenuous in the beginning. Wente and Crockenberg (1976) questioned 46 men about this honeymoon period and found that LaMaze prenatal preparation did not ease their transition except to make them more willing to take part in parenting behaviors. What they did find however was that fathers were more unhappy with the state of their relationship with their partners than with their new parental relationship.

Plateau Stage

The plateau stage follows the honeymoon phase of the role cycle. It is during this time that the parenthood role is fully experienced. As can be seen on page 17-19, Duvall's (1967) outlined tasks are complementary in a traditional way. Rossi (1968) points out that in today's family, autonomy may be the most important issue to resolve. "The balance between individual autonomy and couple mutuality that develops during the early marriage is important in establishing a pattern that will later affect the quality of the parent-child relationship and the extent of sex role segregation of duties between parents" (p. 31). She postulates that when parenthood

takes place in the context of a previously established egalitarian relationship, "role segregation may become blurred, with greater recognition of the wife's need for autonomy and the husband's role in the routines of home and child rearing" (p. 31). This notion of sex role orientation of the partners and the division of family roles are two variables assessed by this research.

Disengagement or Termination Stage

The disengagement or termination stage of parental roles is not the concern of this research. Launching is the psychological termination of the active parental role, and has been explored in its own right by many other family researchers.

This brief discussion of the developmental process of attaining the parental role has pointed out areas of potential friction between the marital partners. During the anticipatory stage the mother withdraws and becomes psychologically involved with her childbearing tasks, perhaps leaving the father confused and frustrated regarding both present and future marital role. An additional source of strain may be found in the partners having differing intensity of task involvement. Fathers seem to experience less difficulty in establishing a bond, perhaps because this role is less central in his role complex and is hence less intense. He does however seem to have less satisfaction with his new relationship with his partner (Wente & Crockenberg, 1976). Rossi suggests that the task of dividing family labor between the sexes may be a marital irritant during the plateau stage of the transition process. All of these research findings and discussions suggested and supported this researcher's choice to study

the individual's sex role behavior and marital quality over the transition to parenthood. The next section explores the effect this developmental transition has on the beginning family. It also served to suggest the type of changes which may occur in the variables measured by this research over the transition to parenthood.

THE EFFECT OF PARENTHOOD TRANSITION ON THE FAMILY

There is contradicting evidence as to the difficulty of the parenthood transition. Beginning research efforts found the period to be a time of crisis. Crisis is defined in the context of role theory as a period of disorganization wherein roles are mixed and affectional patterns are disrupted (Hill, 1958). Later researchers assessed the time to be more of a normal stressor with which each individual and couple is equipped with varying degrees of preparedness to adapt. That is, people are more likely to cope than to panic. If this is the case then role disorganization is not inevitable. The following discussion of the literature focussing on the nature of the parenthood transition presents each of these points of view.

Disorganization vs Adaptation

Examination of the frequency curves in Figure 3.1 clearly indicates that only two of the seven reported studies discerned parenthood as likely to cause crisis. LeMasters (1957) and Dyer (1963) used non-probability samples of couples distant from the transition event and found 50 to 80% of the couples experienced extensive or severe crisis. Succeeding investigators utilized couples who had more recently experienced the birth and they determined a much decreased

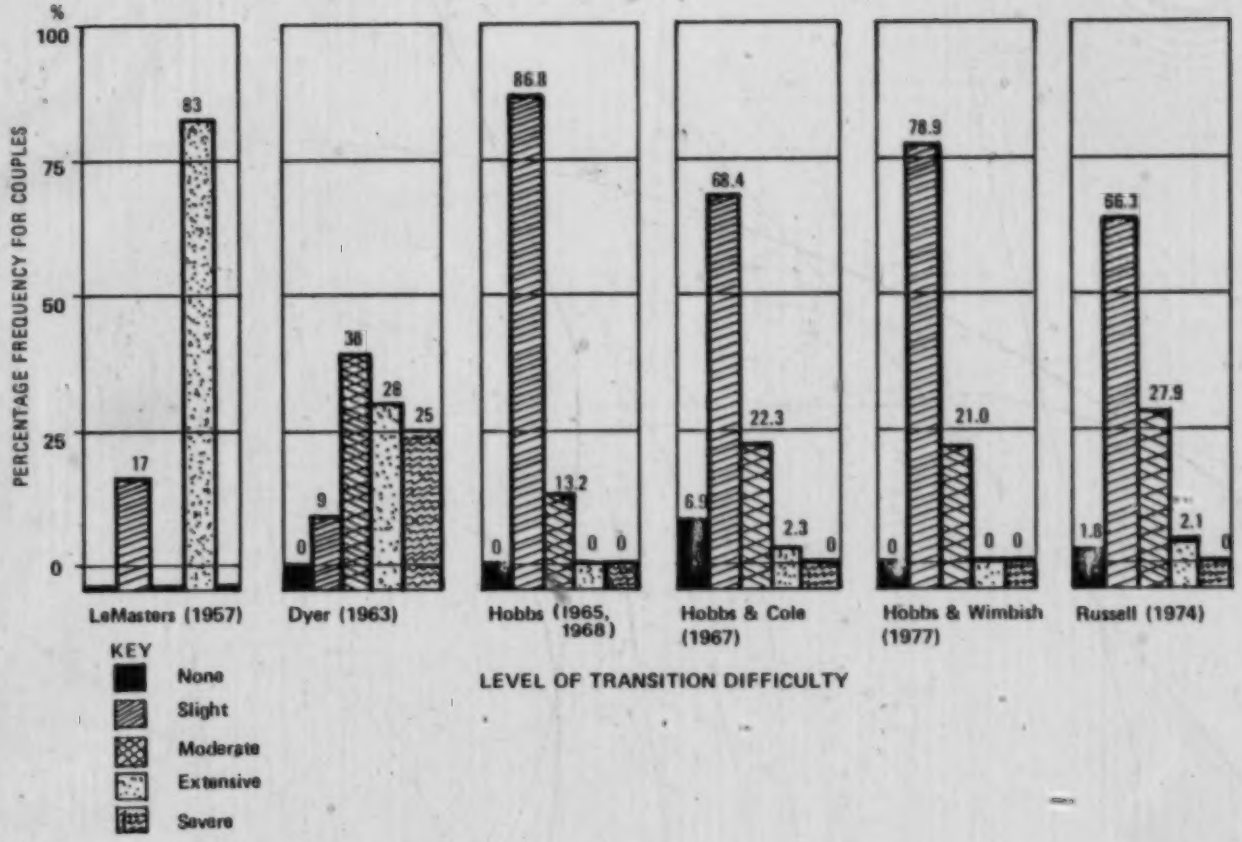


Figure 3.1 Percentage Frequency Distributions for Couple Transition Difficulty in Various Parenthood Studies

measure of transition difficulty. The time issue is brought forward here because this researcher felt that it may explain the findings. The parents who view the transition time as something successfully traversed are probably more able to admit to its difficulties. Whereas the new parent who wants to do the 'perfect' parenting job may be less inclined to admit to problems.

In the study reported in 1965, Hobbs found that 86.8% of the sample had slight difficulty and none had extensive or severe crisis. Nearly identical findings were reported three years later (Hobbs, 1968). A decade replication study carried out in 1973 and published in 1976 by Hobbs and Cole, showed a slightly flatter curve. That is, 68% of the couples experienced slight difficulty and 22% moderate difficulty. Only 2% could be said to experience crisis. Hobbs and Wimbish (1977) in their examination of black couples, found that all of these parents experienced slight or moderate transition difficulties. The 1974 study by Russell also supported the decreased tendency to view parenthood as a crisis. Of interest however, is her follow-up on non-respondents. She discovered that their characteristics were more likely to be correlated with the higher difficulty scorer characteristics. These findings of Russell's (1974) led Hobbs and Cole (1976) to submit that perhaps there is more difficulty felt than is indicated in recent studies, but probably less than in the early investigations. They pointedly discussed the necessity of a continued search for relationships between family and marital variables over this time of parental role acquisition (p. 730).

Analysis of this literature tends to suggest that adaptation rather than crisis is the likely outcome of the transition to parenthood

and that research findings will possibly be less dramatic than if crisis was the general outcome of transition difficulties. It is interesting to note that newer research into parenthood transition difficulty uses adaptation models. That is, the general transitional difficulty measure is no longer seen to be useful. Instead it is subdivided into paternal adaptation (Wente & Crockenberg, 1976), maternal adaptation (Funke-Furber, 1978), newborn adaptation (Brazelton, 1973) and marital adaptation (Grossman, Eichler, Winickoff, Anzalone, Gofseyeff, & Sargent, 1980).

In summary, the literature dealing with the transition to parenthood has noted a movement from viewing it in crisis terms to that of believing it to be a combination of several adjustment processes. Personal and couple elements of the general transition process have been pointed out. The impact on the individual has been relatively ignored by investigators of the parenthood transition. Sex differences reported and discussed in the developmental literature reviewed previously suggests that a tightening of the definition of sex role and the subsequent investigation of transitional changes in those newly defined elements has possibilities. On the other hand, marital quality has been studied by the majority of first parenthood investigators (see Table 3.1) and it has been found to be significantly related to transition difficulty.

Having identified sex role expressions and marital quality as potentially productive variables in a study of the transition to parenthood, the remainder of the review looks at these concepts in more detail. In addition the literature, which documents their

Table 3.1

Variables Related to Parenthood Transition Difficulties in Various Studies

	LeMasters, 1957	Dyer, 1963	Hobbs, 1965	Hobbs, 1968	Russell, 1974	Hobbs & Cole, 1976	Hobbs & Wimbish, 1977
Marital Quality-Prenatal						*	
Marital Quality-Post Partum	-	-		-	* /	*	*
Professional Career	-				* /		
Marriage Preparation		-					
Years Married		-			/		
Education		*			* /		
Planned Pregnancy		-			*		*
Age of Child		-	*				/
Family Income			* /				
Extra Health Care for Baby			*			*	
Extra Help in Home			*				
Age of Parent					*		* /
Premarital Conception					* /		
Want More Children					* /	*	*
Saliency of Pregnancy					*		
Health of Mother					/		
Ease of Pregnancy-Delivery					/		
Sex Preference							*
Baby's Crying					*		

Key: * significant for men
/ significant for women
- significant for couples

relationship at that stage of the family life cycle, is presented.

MARITAL QUALITY

Marital quality is probably the most frequently investigated dependent variable in the field of family study. This exploration of the literature will begin with a brief investigation into the conceptualization of marital quality. A discussion of the examination of marital quality in the transition literature will follow.

Conceptualization of Marital Quality

Several marital quality terms have been used over the years. They range from marital success and stability through marital happiness and satisfaction to marital adjustment. Each of these terms have conceptual implications which will be briefly discussed here.

The terms marital success and stability are frequently used interchangeably. Traditionally, marital stability has been viewed in an objective dichotomous way, wherein the stable marriage continues to exist and the unstable marriage dissolves. This is a simple finite indicator of marital quality, but it fails to acknowledge either the presence of or the relationship between the multitude of variables present in the day to day enacting of the marital role. In fact, Hicks and Platt (1970, p. 68) while reviewing relevant literature on marital quality concluded that stability may not be dependent on happiness. If this is the case then stability as defined through continuance or dissolution of a marriage does not measure quality.

Marital happiness has probably been viewed most like marital satisfaction. Burr (1973) chose to differentiate, combine and

refine relevant concepts around the term marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction in these deliberations came to be defined as an internal subjective feeling state which is evaluative of marital relations

literature criticize this choice of term for marital quality because it leaves out other important marital phenomena. One can only extrapolate from their own work that a multidimensional, process or adjustment model would seem more appropriate to them.

Marital adjustment has usually referred to an over all, general assessment of the total marital experience (Burgess & Cottrell, 1963; Locke, 1951; Locke & Wallace, 1959; Orden & Bradburn, 1968). Spanier and Cole (1976; Spanier, 1976, 1979) separated out positively loaded adjustment dimensions and further conceptualized adjustment as an ever changing process with a qualitative dimension which can be evaluated at any point in time on a dimension from well adjusted to maladjusted. This unipolar concept of marital satisfaction was successfully tested by McNamara and Bahr (1980). This test is described in Chapter IV of this thesis.

In summary, the concept marital quality has been variously defined as process and end product. Since this research is directed at measuring and analyzing marriages over time, the process concept of dyadic adjustment (Spanier, 1976) was chosen to operationalize marital quality.

Marital Quality Change and the Transition to Parenthood

Investigators into the life cycle propose that marital quality does change and in fact decreases during the early years of

marriage (Burr, 1970; Rollins & Feldman, 1970; Rollins & Cannon, 1974). Spanier, Lewis, and Cole (1975) reanalyzed the data from several life cycle studies and determined that only in the case of the first three life cycle stages is family cycle a significant predictor of marital quality. The first three family stages are:

(1) Beginning families--couples married less than 5 years with no children

(2) Childbearing families--oldest child, birth to 2 years, 11 months

(3) Families with preschool children--oldest child, 3 years to 5 years, 11 months.

The life cycle studies were carried out on cross sectional samples. As such the maximum direction they give to further investigators is that family stages one, two, and three are likely social contexts for major in-depth studies. Many family empirists have, in fact, taken a closer look at the childbearing family during the transition to parenthood. Table 3.2 is an attempt to compare marital quality change in a selection of these studies.

A summarization of this table can be made based on the Hobbs group of studies (Hobbs, 1965; Hobbs & Cole, 1976; Hobbs & Wimbish, 1977), the Wente and Crockenberg (1976) study and on the more recent Grossman et al. (1980) study. The Hobbs group shows a trend toward happier marriages over the parenthood transition, the magnitude of which decreased significantly from the 1965 study to the 1967 study. White men seemed more ready to assess happier marriages than white women. The reverse was true for blacks. Wente and Crockenberg (1976)

Table 3.2

Summary Information on Marital Quality Changes in Selected Parenthood Studies

Study (year published) (sample size)	Instrumentation (type of data published)	Prenatal Scores		Post Partum Scores			Significance of Change	Analysis of Change
			men	women		men	women	
Hobbs (1965) 53 couples	-one question retrospective to prenatal marital quality -one question on post partum marital quality (% distribution)		94		more	91	70	- not significant	-"a significantly larger percentage of men than women rated their marriages as more happy and satisfying"(p. 771) or as the same ($p < .05$) (Hobbs & Cole, 1976)
		not happy	6	9	same	9	28		
		unhappy	0	0	less	0	2		
Hobbs & Cole (1976) 65 couples	-same as above	happy	92	94	more	45	39	- not significant	-When compared to Hobbs (1965) fewer men and women rated marriages more happy ($p < .01$). Also more men and women rated marriages to be about the same ($p < .01$)
		not happy	6	5	same	54	59		
		unhappy	2	1	less	2	0		
Hobbs & Wimbish (1977) 38 black couples	-same as above	happy	84	87	more	74	82	- not significant	-fewer black fathers than white fathers (Hobbs, 1965) were more happy ($p < .05$) -more black fathers than white fathers (Hobbs & Cole, 1976) were more happy ($p < .01$) -more black mothers than white mothers (Hobbs & Cole, 1976) were more happy ($p < .01$)
		not happy	16	13	same	24	13		
		unhappy	0	0	less	2	5		
Wente & Crockenberg (1976) 46 men	-check list items to post partum cross-sectional panels: 0-3 months; 4-7 months.	not applicable			not reported			- change in established relationship with wife was significant ($p < .01$) - direction not reported	-the items that deal most directly with the husband-wife relationship also correlate significantly with perceived change scores" (p. 354)
Grossman et al. (1980) 82 couples & 11 women of all parities	-a panel study 1st Trimester Lock Wallace (1974)		111.96	115				- not reported	for prima para parents -measures of marital quality at 1st trimester were significantly related to both 2 month post partum and one year post partum measures ($p < .001$) -measures of marital quality at 2 months post partum were significantly related to measure one year post partum measures ($p < .001$)
	2 Months Post Partum Lock Wallace (1974)					111.7	112.96		
	1 Year Post Partum Spanier (1976) A-reported here so it can be compared to the first two panel measures (mean scores)					114 (95.1[A])	112.30 (93[A])		

published the first study to indicate that marital quality change over the transition might be significant. The most recent investigation (Grossman et al., 1980) used more comprehensive instrumentation and a pretest posttest panel design. Their findings show a decrease in marital quality for men and women of all parities. They also found significant relationships for primipara men and women between measures at each time panel.

This survey of past literature on marital quality does not successfully resolve the question of direction or significance of marital quality changes over the transition to parenthood. The additional fact that only one pretest posttest panel design was found to review, further strengthens the need for the research described in this thesis.

EXPRESSIONS OF SEX ROLE

Investigations of sex role expressions over the transition to parenthood have not been as abundant as those on marital quality, but like the concept marital quality, there has been considerable effort placed on defining the construct sex role. What follows is a presentation of the sex role expression literature pertinent to this thesis and a review of sex role involvement in the transition to parenthood literature.

Conceptualization of Expressions of Sex Role

As defined in Chapter I, this researcher chose to measure two types of sex role expressions. The first is a psychological measure of sex role, usually referred to as identity. The second, is

a psychosocial measure called gender role behavior. Each of these conceptualizations is described below.

Sex Role Identity

This research adopted the concept of sex role identity put forward by Spence and Helmreich (1978). They propose that sex role identity is the cognitive consistency between each person's stereotypical concept of masculinity/femininity.

Stereotypic sex role is composed of a person's beliefs about "the psychosocial meaning of being 'a man' or 'a woman'" (p. 115). The beliefs are composed of assumptions about appropriate sex role, characteristics of the self such as personality attributes and cognitive skills, physique and physical appearance, style of speech and body movement, sexual behavior and so forth. In addition to beliefs about masculinity and femininity a person has a global self concept of who he or she is as a "real man" or "a real woman" (p. 115). The cognitive consistency between these elements within people explain the differences among individuals in the nature of their self definitions, even though the majority of men and women consider themselves well matched with the stereotype.

Bem's Sex Role Inventory (1974) was constructed upon a construct similar to the assumptions about stereotypic behavior as described above. That is, that sex typed persons have internalized society's sex typed standards of desirable behavior for both men and women and that this will be reflected in their responses to her adjective check list. Because of this, her instrumentation was chosen to measure the psychological measure of sex role proposed by this researcher.

Gender Role Behavior

Gender role behavior is the psychosocial measure of sex role examined by this research. Nye and Gecas (1976) determined through their examination of the sociological literature that the provider task, the housekeeper task, and the child care task were among the major family role behaviors of spouses and parents (p. 13). Roles have more conceptual facets than the behavioral one which this research takes. It seems however that the practicalities of who does what family tasks is an important aspect which past investigators have examined and found to change over the transition to parenthood.

Change in Sex Role Expressions Over the Parenthood Transition

There has been surprisingly little investigation of the psychological aspect called sex role identity during this time. Grossman et al. (1980) seem to have been the first to measure this variable. It is unfortunate they only collected data on it prenatally, hence comment on its change is impossible. It was however significantly related to marital quality for men. This will be discussed later.

More attention has been paid to the investigation of task allotment of family roles. Hoffman (1978) interpreted results from a large national survey to show that women had a shift toward traditional roles over the parenthood years. She points out that even when education and employment is controlled for this trend remains. Cowan, Cowan, Core, & Cie (1978) studied eight couples in depth and validated this trend.

This research ultimately concerned itself with the relationship between sex role expressions and marital quality. The following

presentation is a discussion of the theories and empirical findings about this relationship.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXPRESSIONS OF SEX ROLE AND MARITAL QUALITY OVER THE TRANSITION TO PARENTHOOD

Theoretical support for the likelihood of such a relationship between sex role and marital quality can be found in Rossi's (1968) classic analysis of the literature concerning the transition to parenthood. Rossi (1968) supports the view that every role has two dimensions, that of expression and instrumentation. This idea is represented by the axes in Figure 3.2.

She points out that in today's culture young married men are typically caught up in the instrumental aspect of the husband role. The husband is intent on establishing his career and a secure physical setting for his family, however this does not mean that he is not supportive of his spouse. The wife, on the other hand, traditionally provides the initiative for maintenance of the bond between the pair. She is also usually employed however she is infrequently career bound. These two positions are represented on Figure 3.2 by the stylized figures for male and female. Rossi further proposes that the addition of the parenthood role necessitates that the young mother become more organized and instrumental and that the father needs to begin to supply expressive needs for both the mother and the child. This shift is represented by arrows on Figure 3.2.

This researcher proposes that these shifts may reflect changes in the individual's view of himself as well as how family tasks are carried out. It was also supposed by the researcher that

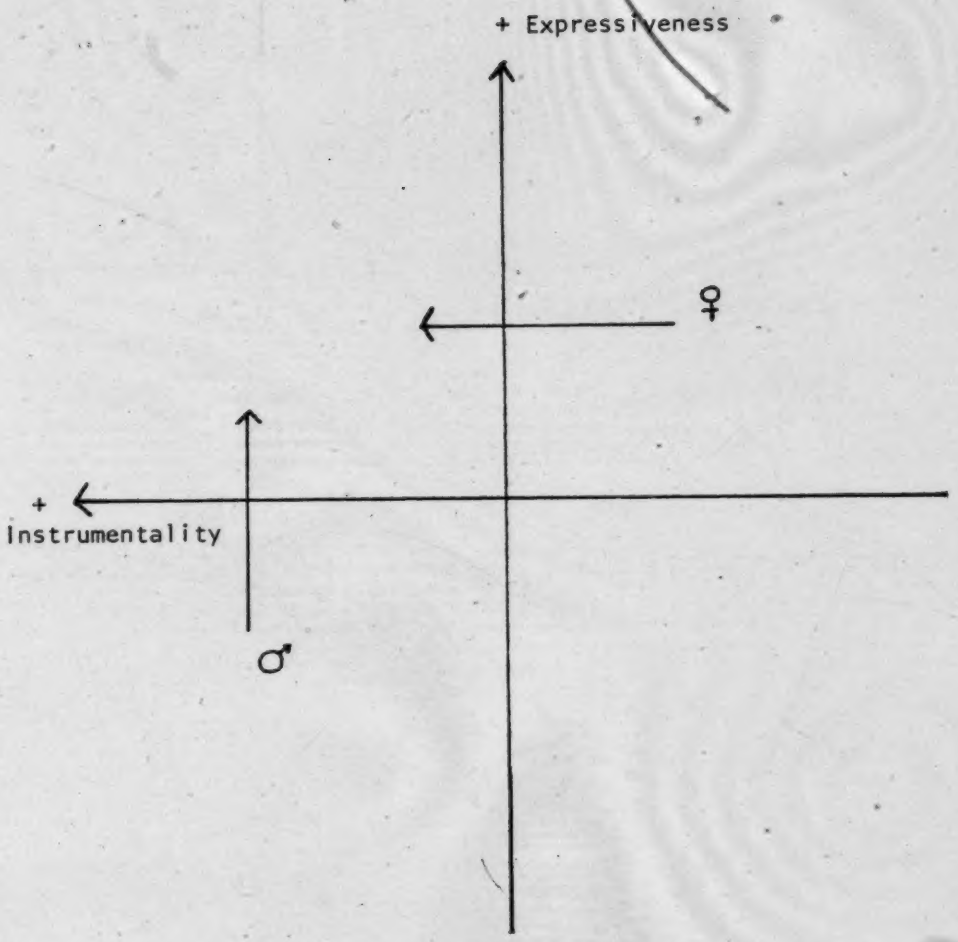


Figure 3.2 The Dimensionality of Sex Roles and the Possible Effect of the Transition to Parenthood

these changes should be related to marital quality changes during the transition to parenthood.

In fact Cowan et al. (1978) noted in their case study investigation, that division of labor and use of time were generally at the top of a list of items which contributed to spousal conflict late in pregnancy and after the birth. A more recent study (Grossman et al., 1980) found that only relationships between the other sex role variables of interest to this study, sex role identity, and marital quality, were significant and then only for men. High prenatal masculine sex role identity was found to be negatively correlated with marital quality at one year post delivery for all fathers ($p \leq .05$). In addition high prenatal feminine sex role identity was positively correlated with marital quality at one year post partum for experienced fathers ($p \leq .05$).

This review of the sex role literature and its relationship to the parenthood transition and to marital quality at that time is necessarily brief because of the scarcity of research specific to these variables and relationships. What seems to be clear however is that gender role behavior probably becomes more traditional at this time. As to any other trends over time for the other sex role variable, sex role identity, none has been found. Upon turning our attention to the relationship between sex role expressions and marital quality, there seems to be a hint of a relationship between sex role identity and marital quality for men only, and the notion of division of labor contributing to spousal conflict was found. Because of these limited findings, the research described here was planned and carried out.

SUMMARY

In summary this review of the literature found that investigations of the parenthood transition support the notion that marital quality changes over the transition to parenthood. Role theory was used to propose the presence of sex role identity and gender role behavior changes at this time. Limited empirical evidence was unearthed to support these latter premises. The additional idea that a relationship exists between expressions of sex role and marital quality at this time was also found to have been investigated and validated by only a few researchers.

What follows is the description of how this researcher planned, carried out, and statistically analyzed an investigation into the relationship between expressions of sex role and marital quality over the transition to parenthood.

CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This exploration into the transition to parenthood utilized the one group pretest-posttest design with a repeated measure method of data collection on a self selected convenience sample. The concept of pre-experimental design is discussed below. The remainder of the chapter discusses the data collection method, sampling procedure, ethical issues, instrumentation and statistical analysis used in this study.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This research is exploratory in nature. As such, it continues the search begun by LeMasters in 1957 for significant interactive variables to explain the presence or absence of role reorganization following the birth of the first child.

The majority of past research (Dyer, 1963; Hobbs, 1965, 1968; Hobbs & Cole, 1976; LeMasters, 1957; Russell, 1974; Wente & Crackenberg, 1976) into the effects of the parental role transition on the marital partners was of the one shot design (Campbell & Stanley, 1963). That is, prenatal data, if collected at all, was collected through retrospective questions which relied on the memories of the respondents. Because the one group pretest-posttest design is an improvement on the one shot design (Campbell & Stanley, 1963) it was chosen as the methodology for this researcher's inquiry into spousal sex role expressions and marital quality changes which may occur as a result of the transition to parenthood.

The Pretest Posttest Design

A pretest posttest pre-experimental design (Campbell & Stanley, 1963) implies that two strategic time panels (Babbie, 1973, p. 64) are chosen, during which relevant data are solicited from the subjects. The related times involved in this research are a prenatal time and a post delivery time. These times are conceptualized to encompass that period in which transition to parenthood occurs. They were chosen to test the more immediate aspects of marital role adjustment and to minimize the attrition of subjects which normally increases as the duration between time panels extends. This choice of interval between panels will not mediate the "sleeper effect" (Neale & Liebert, 1973, p. 74) of the transition event. That is, the effects of the transition to parenthood may not be felt by the marital pair until many weeks or months past the delivery of the newborn. Several panels would need to be used if the purpose of this research was to look at more far reaching effects of transition.

The second trimester of pregnancy was chosen as the target prenatal sample time because it is during this time that the woman feels her physical best and some of the initial transition tasks (Clark, 1976) have been resolved. During this time, it is likely that sex role expressions and marital quality will probably most resemble the pre-conception period. The post delivery sampling was as close as possible to the fourth week of the post partum period. The selection of this time for the post delivery test time is an attempt to eliminate the intrusion of physiological variables into the responses of the mother. Theoretically, involution is completed by four to six weeks post partum (Clark & Affonso, 1976). That is, the hormone

level will have returned to the pre-pregnant balance, the uterus has returned to the pelvis, the extra cellular fluids have been reduced to normal levels and the vaginal tract has healed. To summarize, the time span between sampling panels was chosen to mediate the likelihood of attrition of subjects and to ensure a certain level of well being for the mother. It did not attempt to allow for the "sleeper effect" (Neale & Liebert, 1973), since the purpose of the study was to test for the more immediate effects of the parenthood transition.

Campbell and Stanley (1963) point out the flaws inherent in the pre-experimental methodology of the one group pretest posttest design. The confounding variables of history, maturation and testing effects which interfere with internal validity will be discussed with respect to the proposed research.

History or what occurs as change producing events in addition to the transition to parenthood between the testing times was a major problem in this research. This variable could be moderately controlled through the use of a matched control group. There are several barriers to obtaining such a group. If the couples could be matched, requesting that they remain childless until the termination of the research is unethical. Utilization of a convenience control group such as childless university student couples, introduces the variable of student status which would be absent in the experimental group. As a result the findings using such a control group would not reflect any meaningful control on the experimental group. For these reasons, this researcher has chosen not to utilize a control group.

Maturation is the second rival variable discussed by Campbell and Stanley (1963). This variable is not a threat to internal

validity in this case because the maturational event is the "treatment" which is under study.

The final intervening variables of testing effects and instrument decay are minimized through the use of instruments with some demonstrated reliability and validity.

In summary, the researcher has chosen the one group pretest posttest design in an attempt to improve on past methodology of the research into the transition to parenthood. Instruments with some demonstrated reliability and validity were chosen to reduce the effects of testing and instrument decay. The use of a control group was waived because of difficulties inherent in matching such a group to the experimental subjects at this time.

Data Collection Method

This research used a repeated measure technique and these measures were administered through the written medium. A discussion of the repeated measures technique and the pros and cons of written responses to questions is presented below.

The Repeated Measure Method

The repeated measure method assumes homogeneity of variance and covariance in the population (Ferguson, 1973, p. 321). The use of the powerful statistical technique of analysis of variance to make inferences from the data make the breaking of this assumption relatively acceptable.

One of the significant advantages of the repeated measure method is that decreased error terms result from the use of the same subjects (Neale & Liebert, 1973, p. 73). The obvious disadvantage is

that performance on the second trial may be affected by performance on the first (Neale & Liebert, 1973, p. 73). The usual result of this is that the scores moved toward the mean. The use of a middle range of time between the testings and the fact that the significant life event of birth occurs between the sampling times should decrease this risk of carry-over effects.

The Written Response Method

A series of two essentially similar checklist questionnaires was mailed to the subjects. This written method of data collection was chosen because of time and budgetary restraints placed on the researcher.

Some empirical knowledge regarding the correlation between data obtained through the questionnaire method with the richer interview technique was published by Hobbs (1968) in his replication and extension study into the transition to parenthood. He found that the checklist gave rise to more conservative indications of sex differences and that "scores from the two methods of measurement were correlated in the mid .50's and .60's" (p. 416). In addition he suggested that "neither measurement will account for more than about 25 to 35 percent of the variability of the other" (p. 416). Hence this researcher's choice by default of the pencil and paper method could make any significant findings conservative but perhaps more acceptable to the research community.

The discussion now turns to the more practical aspects of methodology, that is, to sampling, instrumentation, ethics and data analysis.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The Self Selected Sample

A convenience, self selected sample was used because of the impossibility of identifying and hence randomly selecting all possible primipara women and their partners in the selected catchment area. A group of 130 primipara couples from 11 prenatal classes sponsored by the Edmonton local public health authority were contacted in person. They were given a letter (see Appendix A) which was discussed with them by the researcher. The letter outlined the inclusion factors for membership in the first panel of the study. They included the following conditions:

(1) The couple must have been living together during the pregnancy.

(2) Only couples who were experiencing their first pregnancy were asked to participate.

(3) Both partners should have been the natural parents of the fetus.

These inclusion factors were rechecked by questions asked in the first questionnaire. The living together inclusion factor provided the couple with a minimal amount of time to establish a marital relationship pattern. Since transition to parenthood was the social context of this study, only couples experiencing their first pregnancy could be included in the sample. The request that only natural parents participate was an attempt to eliminate a potential confounding variable on marital quality. The second panel inclusion factor was that the physician should be content with the physical development of the newborn. This inclusion factor was designed to

decrease the number of stressors on the transition couple.

After considering the letter for one week, 68 couples thought they would participate and took prenatal questionnaires. Only seven of these 68 couples did not begin participation in data collection. Of the 61 couples who returned the first questionnaire, 43 also returned the post-partum questionnaire. Only 31 of these were complete data packages which also met the inclusion factors for both panels.

The utilization of this convenience, self selection sampling technique posed problems for the generalizability of the findings. For the purposes of this research, a thorough description of the sample was planned so the findings could be evaluated as their probable universality. Census data and a sample representative of the Canadian city in question was used as a basis of comparison.

ETHICAL CONCERNS

Since this research entailed delving into the sensitive topics of marital quality and sex role, and since the questionnaire method breaks the integrity of the family and introduced new information, ethical concerns were given significant consideration by the researcher. The purpose and methodology of this study was subjected to examinations by both the ethical review committee of the university and the research committee of the local board of health. Each of these groups was satisfied by the ethical safeguards planned by the researcher. These measures are discussed below.

The self selection letter discussed earlier also introduced each couple to the following ethical concerns: the purpose of the study, its benefits, costs in time to them, methods of keeping

confidentiality and the idea of continuing consent. In addition to this written discussion, the above issues were covered by the researcher in her introductory remarks to the couples at the prenatal classes.

In the interest of keeping intrusion into the family to a minimum, follow-up to decrease attrition was limited to one written postcard and one phone call two weeks and four weeks after delivery of the second questionnaire. However the occurrence of a national mail strike during the data collection period necessitated one more phone call as well as hand delivery and pick up of the second questionnaire. This more intense follow-up on a portion of the sample couples may have aided in decreasing attrition.

INSTRUMENTATION

The questionnaires (see Appendix A) addressed themselves to three areas. Demographic data which described the respondent and the inclusion factors appeared first on the questionnaire. Two measures of the independent variable, sex role expressions followed. Lastly, a checklist directed at obtaining information on the dependent variable, marital quality, was presented. The questionnaires were pretested for readability by a small sample of couples with children. The following discussion includes operational definitions of the variables and short descriptions of the instrumentation used to quantify them.

Sex Role Expressions

Sex role expressions as defined in the problem statment had two components. Individual sex role identity was operationalized using Bem's (1974) Sex Role Inventory checklist. Gender role behavior

was measured through an examination of how the partners carried out family roles.

The Bem Sex Role Inventory

The Bem Sex Role Inventory (1974) was designed to measure individual sex role identity. This scale consists of 60 instrumental and expressive traits which the subjects assessed on a seven point scale. The scale breaks down into masculinity and femininity sub-scales which are treated orthogonally. That is, the respondents are permitted to score on both the masculine and feminine scales. Each respondent obtained a mean score on the masculine and feminine scales. The mean scores were utilized in subsequent statistical tests.

Bem (1974) utilized both a logical and empirical attack to demonstrate a high degree of construct validity. One hundred judges responded to 200 personality characteristics which seemed to be positive in value and either masculine or feminine in tone. The personality characteristics were placed in the ranking question--"How desirable is it for a man/woman to be _____?: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7." A personality characteristic qualified for the instrument if it was independently judged by both male and female judges to be more significantly desirable for a man or a woman ($p \leq .05$) and visa versa.

Concurrent validity with the California Psychological Inventory was moderate and was not correlated with the Guilford-Zimmerman Temperament Survey. In addition, the items were found to be internally consistent. Co-efficient alpha for masculinity was .86 and for femininity it was .80. A retest of the norming sample after four weeks demonstrated a high test retest reliability for category

scores: r = .9 for masculine; r = .9 for feminine; and r = .93 for androgyny.

In summary, the Bem Sex Role Inventory was determined to be a reliable and valid instrument and was hence used to measure the aspect of sex role expression labelled as sex role identity in this study.

The Family Role Questionnaire

Ericksen's et al. (1979) conceptualization of family roles was employed to devise this measure of sex role expressions. The family was viewed as a unit with a set of task requirements both inside and outside the household. The concept makes it possible to view the family role sets without the necessity of defining particular tasks as women's or men's. The roles are broken into work role, home role and child care role.

In an attempt to follow the construct of equality of tasks 10 items were developed for the home role scale. Five of these items could be face evaluated to be masculine tasks and five could be seen as feminine family tasks. The respondents were asked to give their perception of who carries out the task. Response categories ranged from 'only female partner' to 'only male partner'. To make the categories exhaustive two additional categories of 'employed other' and 'not applicable' were added. For example: the apartment dweller would find the question on yard work to be not applicable. The work role scale consisted of a single item directed at how many paid hours the respondent worked in the previous week. The child care scale also consisted of one question and appeared only in the second questionnaire.

In this study the raw scores for each role were weighted

equally and added to give a range of scores from 0 to 150 at both sampling times. High scores indicated nontraditional role behavior. That is, high involvement in the work role was traditionally weighted for men and nontraditionally for women both prenatally and post delivery. High involvement in the child care role was weighted traditionally for women and nontraditionally for men. Each item on the home role was also appropriately scored depending on the sex of the respondent. The impact of this weighting is that each role was proportioned equally within the role cluster of work role, home role and child care role. This notion was a practical attempt to even out the disparity present in the number of questionnaire items for each role. In addition, it reflects more accurately the current distribution of these three aspects of family role.

In summary, the family role items on the questionnaire were modelled after the instrumentation of Ericksen et al. (1979). The resultant weighted mean scores were used in the analysis to answer the relevant research questions.

Marital Quality

Marital quality was this study's dependent variable and it was measured through the Dyadic Adjustment Scale developed by Spanier (1976).

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale

Spanier's Dyadic Adjustment Scale is an individual measure of a couple concept. This fact has been noted and criticized by Spanier himself (Spanier, 1973; Spanier & Lewis, 1980). This research was set up so individual perceptions of the variable were needed, hence making the choice of this instrument acceptable.

On the positive side, Spanier's marital quality construct has been tested and endorsed by McNamara and Bahr (1980). What follows is a brief outline of that test.

The three models of marital quality current in the literature are (1) the bipolar continuum model of marital satisfaction; (2) the unipolar model of marital satisfaction; and (3) the separate dimension model of marital satisfaction.

The bipolar model of global marital satisfaction defines satisfaction to be a balance between positive and negative aspects of marriage. Farber (1957) operationalized such a model when he used the extent of spousal agreement versus perceptions of undesirable spouse's traits as the basis of his instrument.

The unipolar model of marital satisfaction has been operationalized such that marital satisfaction is a function of either the frequency or saliency of certain satisfying aspects of marriage. Spánier (1976) utilized the unipolar theory in developing the Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

The separate dimensions model of marital satisfaction was tested by Orden and Bradburn (1968). The hypothesis is that marital happiness is not a single dimension but is a complex state resulting from the two independent dimensions of satisfactions and dissatisfactions.

McNamara and Bahr (1980) tested the dimensionality of the three models by testing the two working hypotheses: (1) marital role satisfaction is a separate dimension from marital role stress; (2) marital role satisfaction is a separate dimension from marital role conflict. They concluded that marital role satisfaction is a separate dimension from role dissatisfaction as evidenced by role stress or

role conflict, thereby endorsing the unipolar model as the appropriate marital role satisfaction model.

The Dyadic Adjustment Scale consists of 32 items that score the frequency of salient aspects of marital interaction. The trait universe consisted of all items ever used in any scale measuring marital adjustment or related concepts. Then both a logical and an empirical approach was used to select items. This ensured a high degree of construct validity. In an additional test of the concept, a correlation of .86 for married respondents and .88 among divorced respondents with the Locke Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale (1959) was computed. Factor analysis of the 32 items produced four interrelated components, three of which were hypothesized as components of adjustment. This final test of the construct ensures a fairly powerful instrument for testing marital adjustment. In addition such substantial construct validity makes conclusions regarding predictability possible (Hunka, 1980).

Concurrent validity was demonstrated when Spanier found that a divorced sample differed significantly from a married sample on each of the 32 items. The Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha for measuring internal consistency was .96, thus making this test reliable as well as valid.

An additional attraction of the Dyadic Adjustment Scale was that it gave rise to five subscores which could be useful for secondary analysis. The subscores include dyadic satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, dyadic consensus, affectional expression and commitment.

The raw scores of dyadic adjustment are arrived at through addition of the subject's selection of scaled responses for each

question. These were the scores used in this study to represent the variable marital quality.

In summary, Spanier's (1976) Dyadic Adjustment Scale was chosen as the measure for the dependent variable of this study because it was short and it demonstrated a sufficient degree of validity and reliability.

Table 4.1 summarized the variables, the instrumentation and the possible total score each individual could receive.

DATA PROCESSING AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The questionnaires were hand coded so that the couple was the unit of analysis. Each partner was assigned a value for each of the variables. Then a combination of OSIRIS (1980) and SPSS (Nie, Hull, Jenkins, Steinbrenner, & Bent, 1970) statistical programs was used to clean the data. That is, the data set was examined for completeness, invalid values and internal consistency. Outliers were handled independently and frequency distributions were established for each variable. These frequency distributions were used to describe the sample. Each of the separate variable values for each partner were arrived at and were then manipulated statistically to answer the research questions. What follows is a description of how each research question was answered using appropriate statistical analysis.

Subproblem One and Two

The first subproblem was to compare and contrast expressions of sex role for couples over the transition to parenthood. The second subproblem was to compare and contrast expressions of marital quality for couples over the transition to parenthood.

TABLE 4.1

Summary of Instrumentation

VARIABLE	NAME	INSTRUMENT	TOTAL SCORE
Y	Dyadic Adjustment	Spanier (1976)	0-151
X_1	Sex Role Identity	Bem (1974)	Masculine 0-140 Feminine 0-140
X_2	Family Role	Ericksen et al. (1979)	0-150

Analysis of variance was used to interpret the data and provide answers to these questions. Analysis of variance is "a statistical technique that assesses the effects of one or more categorical independent variables, measured at any level upon a continuous dependent variable that is usually assumed to be measured at an interval level" (Nie et al., 1975, p. 9). It is generally used to test the significance of the differences between the means of different populations (Ferguson, 1973, p. 223).

With these problems, a one way analysis of variance with one repeated factor from the MTS/SPPS program package (Precht & Humphrey, 1979) was used to analyze each of the following variables in turn: the two subvariables of sex role identity, gender role behavior and the variable marital quality. This gave rise to results that could indicate whether the variations in the couple means between the prenatal and post partum times was greater than that expected. In addition the source of the variation was described using the statistical results.

Subproblem Three

The third subproblem was to examine the relationships between expressions of sex role and marital quality for couples before and after the transition to parenthood.

To answer this problem, a Pearson-r correlation matrix which gave a measure of strength between each of the mean values of the variables at each sampling time was constructed. Student's t with N-2 degrees of freedom was the significance test applied to each coefficient.

Subproblem Four

The fourth subproblem was to examine the relationship between changes in expressions of sex role over the transition to parenthood and marital quality after the transition to parenthood.

An additional correlation matrix of mean difference values on the sex role expression variables and the marital quality mean value at the second sampling panel was produced and examined for significance.

Subproblem Five

The fifth subproblem was to examine the relationship between changes in expressions of sex role over the transition to parenthood and changes in marital quality over the transition to parenthood. A final correlation matrix between difference values of the variables was constructed.

Statistical Assumptions

Analysis of variance and Pearson-r correlation are parametric techniques of data analysis. As such, certain assumptions are made regarding the quality of the data. What follows is a presentation of these assumptions with respect to the study discussed here.

(1) The use of any parametric statistical procedure assumes that the dependent variables are measured at least at the interval level. In social science, it is difficult to find true interval level measures, but there are many which fall into the ordered metric level (Coombs, 1953 in Nie et al., 1970). "Ordered metric consists of ordered categories where the relative ordering of the intercategory distances is known even though their absolute magnitude cannot be measured" (p. 6). Abelson and Tukey (1959 in Nie et al., 1970) argued that any

ordinal level variable may be treated as an interval value because of the strength and sensitivity of the parametric techniques. It can be deduced that since each of the variables measured in this study are measured at the ordered metric level, parametric statistics such as analysis of variance can be used to make inferences.

(2) The second assumption that the population from which the sample is drawn be normal, or have homogeneity of variance, may be departed from without seriously affecting the validity of the inferences drawn from the data (Ferguson, 1973, p. 234) because of the power of the analysis of variance technique.

(3) The further assumption that the effects of the variable interaction are additive is rarely suspected in any model (Ferguson, 1973, p. 235). Since the time interval is moderately short between the panels, Spanier and Lewis' (1980) criticism that marital quality over the life cycle is curvilinear and hence linear statistical models should not be used, can be waived here. That is, the short time interval should lead to a fairly straight relationship because of the brevity of time involved.

LIMITATIONS

The limitations of each of the methodological issues has been discussed as each was presented. The major limitation of course is the lack of a randomized sample, hence the inability to generalize any findings. There is also moderate limitations present in the testing effects present in the repeated measure method.

CHAPTER V

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

This chapter presents the results of the statistical analysis of the data. The sample will be described and discussed first. Following that, the data relating to the interval between the sampling panels will be presented. Finally, the analysis related to each research problem will be presented and summarized.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

The description of the sample will include both couple characteristics (relationship status and length) as well as individual characteristics (male partner, female partner and newborn). In addition an attempt has been made to compare the sample couples, who have been obtained by a non-random technique with an age representative sample from the Edmonton Area Studies (Northcott & Kinzel, 1980; Kinzel, 1981) (see Appendix B).

Couple Characteristics

Thirty-one couples who were expecting their first child constituted the sample for this research. Description of their relationship status and length follows.

Relationship Status

Table 5.1 shows that these couples were on the whole married, usually for the first time. Marginally more men than women had been married previously. Only two couples were living together. When this number was converted to a percentage it compared proportionally with the numbers of people living common-law in Edmonton during

Table 5.1

Relationship Status Distribution for

Male and Female Partners

Relationship Status Category	Males % (raw frequency)	Females % (raw frequency)
First Marriage	87.1 (27)	90.3 (28)
Remarried	6.5 (2)	3.2 (1)
Living Together	6.5 (2)	6.2 (2)
	n=31	n=31

the 1980 Edmonton Area Study (Northcott & Kinzel, 1980, p. 6). That is, in this study 6.5% of the couples were living together whereas in the Edmonton Area Study for 1980, 6.3% of the couples reported common-law relationships.

Relationship Length

The inclusion factors designed for this study necessitated that the couples had lived together at least from the time of the newborn's conception. Three of the couples were found to have met this criteria only minimally. They had lived together from 10 months to one year. Table 5.2 shows the distributions of the whole range of relationship lengths peculiar to this sample. Over 50 percent of the sample had been married three or four years, and over 35 percent had been married five years or more.

Individual Partner Characteristics

Individual spousal comparisons on various characteristics provide another view of the sample. Age and education level attained will be discussed first. In addition, occupation and employment status before and after the birth will be compared.

Age

Husbands were slightly older than the wives in this sample. Husbands' age ranged from 21 to 36 years, whereas their wives ranged from 17 to 33. Table 5.3 summarizes the age distribution for male and female partners. When one compares this distribution with the 1976 census data (Statistics Canada, 1976) on age for Edmonton, and the findings about age from the 1980 and 1981 Edmonton Area Studies (Northcott & Kinzel, 1980; Kinzel, 1981), it is obvious that this is

Table 5.2

Relationship Length Distribution for Couples

Relationship Length Categories	% (raw frequency)
10 months to one year	9.7 (3)
two years	3.2 (1)
three years	25.8 (8)
four years	25.8 (8)
five years	12.9 (4)
six years	9.7 (3)
seven years	12.9 (4)
	n=31

Table 5.3

Age Distribution for Male and Female Partners

Age Category	Males % (raw frequency)	Females % (raw frequency)
15-20 yrs	- (0)	9.7 (3)
21-25 yrs	19.4 (6)	38.7 (12)
26-30 yrs	58.1 (18)	45.2 (14)
31-35 yrs	19.4 (6)	6.5 (2)
36-40 yrs	3.2 (1)	- (0)
	n=31 $\overline{X}$=27	n=31 $\overline{X}$=25

a young sample. Appendix B summarizes this comparison. The youthful nature of the sample is not surprising considering that the context of the study is the transition to parenthood and this event usually occurs early in a person's life cycle.

Education

Over 75% of the husbands and 54% of the wives had attended college or vocational school, obtained an undergraduate degree or taken post-graduate courses. Males in this sample had attained slightly higher levels of education than their wives. Table 5.4 more completely presents the information on educational status of the individuals in this sample. Table 5.5 presents the findings on education from the 1980 and 1981 Edmonton Area Studies (Northcott & Kinzel, 1980; Kinzel, 1981). When these tables are compared, it can be concluded that the general Edmonton population is better educated than this research sample is. On the other hand, the vocational school graduates are proportionally represented. Perhaps, the youthfulness of the sample has limited its representation at the higher levels of scholastic education.

Occupation and Employment Status

Table 5.6 presents the occupational categories the partners placed themselves in both prenatally and postdelivery. Table 5.7 presents the employment status of the partners. It is not surprising that most of the men work at skilled or managerial jobs, considering that the majority are technically trained. Likewise, it is predictable that the majority of women work in clerical or service occupations, which are the traditional work categories for women in our culture.

Table 5.4

Education Distribution for Male and Female Partners

Education Category Attained	Males % (raw frequency)	Females % (raw frequency)
Elementary	3.3 (1)	3.2 (1)
High School	23.3 (7)	41.9 (13)
College or Technical School	50.0 (15)	38.7 (12)
Undergraduate University Degree	16.7 (5)	6.5 (2)
Post Graduate Courses	6.7 (2)	9.7 (3)
	n=30*	n=31

*n=30 is due to missing data.

Table 5.5

Academic and Vocational Schooling for 1980* and 1981** Edmonton Area Study (EAS) Main Samples

Years of Schooling[x]	EAS 1980 (%)	EAS 1981 (%)
No Schooling	.7	1.2
Elementary	4.7	6.2
Junior High	10.6	9.0
High School	52.2	43.2
University	31.7	40.1
Vocational College	43.0[xx]	

*(Northcott & Kinzel, 1980, p. 7)

**(Kinzel, 1981, p. 4)

[x]Each category contains those with some education at that level or education complete to that level.

[xx]43% of the 1980 respondents had some vocational training.

Table 5.6

Occupational Distribution for Male and Female Partners
Before and After the Birth of the First Child

Occupational Category	Males		Females	
	Prenatal % (raw frequency)	Post Delivery % (raw frequency)	Prenatal % (raw frequency)	Post Delivery % (raw frequency)
Business and Management	23.3 (7)	22.6 (7)	12.9 (4)	(0)
Professional	13.3 (4)	16.1 (5)	19.4 (6)	25.8 (8)
Sales	3.3 (1)	6.5 (2)	(0)	(0)
Clerical and Service	6.7 (2)	3.2 (1)	64.5 (20)	64.5 (20)
Skilled	36.7 (11)	29.0 (9)	3.2 (1)	3.2 (1)
Semi-Skilled	13.3 (4)	19.4 (6)	(0)	6.5 (2)
Student	3.3 (1)	3.2 (1)	(0)	(0)
	n=30*	n=31	n=31	n=31

*n=30 is due to missing data.

Table 5.7

Employment Status Distribution for Male and Female Partners Before and After the Birth of the First Child

Employment Status Category	Males		Females	
	Prenatally % (raw frequency)	Post Delivery % (raw frequency)	Prenatally % (raw frequency)	Post Delivery % (raw frequency)
Employed	83.9 (26)	93.5 (29)	74.2 (23)	3.2 (1)
Unemployed	3.2 (1)	(0)	16.1 (5)	38.7 (12)
On leave with pay	(0)	(0)	(0)	6.5 (2)
On leave	(0)	(0)	9.7 (3)	51.6 (16)
Employed Part Time	6.5 (2)	3.2 (1)	(0)	(0)
Self Employed	3.2 (1)	(0)	(0)	(0)
Student	3.2 (1)	3.2 (1)	(0)	(0)
	n=31	n=31	n=31	n=31

Post delivery, all of the men previously unemployed became employed. This is a cultural norm and an economic necessity. What is of interest is the number of women who seem to consider themselves on leave. This indicates to the researcher, that the tradition of staying home permanently after childbirth may be eroding. The fact that none of the women gave their occupation, as homemaker, even after a prompt (see questionnaire item in Appendix A), is another indicator that the cultural norms surrounding womens' roles are in transition.

Nature of the Birth Experience

Both subjective and objective data about the delivery experience will be presented, followed by a short description of the newborn.

Delivery Experience

The inclusion factors of this study dictated that the delivery be normal. By that, the researcher intended that they be non induced or augmented vaginal deliveries. In order to secure an adequate sample size, this criteria was relaxed. In fact, of the deliveries experienced by the couples in this study, 67.6% were normal vaginal deliveries, 22.6% were reported to have been induced or augmented and 9.7% were caesarian sections (some after a labor experience, some elective). This percentage of caesarian sections is considerably less than the percentage (16.8) performed in a major hospital of the western Canadian city in question (U of A Hospitals Reports, 1981).

For similar reasons, the inclusion factor, that the couples be happy about their birth experience was also loosened up. All of

the men assessed the experience as exciting or exhilarating. It is not surprising, however, taking the types of deliveries into consideration that a few women assessed the experience as unpleasant (9.9%).

The Newborn

One of the inclusion factors that was not relaxed for this study was the one concerning the physical health of the newborn. Each of the 31 infants was reported to have been assessed by the physician as physically normal.

The babies were nearly split as to ratio of male to female, with males being just slightly ahead (54.8%). This probably reflects the fact that in general more males are conceived than females (Rorvik & Shettles, 1971). Like every other group of new babies, they had a range of birth weights (6 lb. to 8 lb. 13 oz.). In addition sleeping, crying, and nutritional routines varied. Since the newborn descriptors are not salient to this study, they will not be further explored here.

INTERVAL BETWEEN PRE-POST MEASURES

The goal of the study was to have all couples answer the first panel questions as early in the pregnancy as possible. This criterion was only partially met because less than half of the members of the sampling pool provided by the public health agency were in their first or second trimester. As a result, only 12 of the couples (38.7%) were sampled during the early trimester of their pregnancies.

The goal of the timing for the second panel was that the respondents would be at least four weeks past delivery. This goal was met. Twenty-nine percent of the questionnaires were completed

during the fourth week post partum and the remainder were filed between five and 10 weeks after delivery.

Examination of this information showed that the shortest period possible between questionnaires was four or five weeks and the longest possible time lag could have been 34 weeks.

THE RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The presentation of the results now turns to the examination of data relevant to each research problem.

Subproblems One and Two

The first and second subproblems were to compare and contrast expressions of sex role and expressions of marital quality for couples over the transition to parenthood. A two way analysis of variance with repeated measures provided the appropriate test. Figures 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4 graphically present the spousal means of the variables which made up sex role expressions and marital quality for this study.

Figure 5.1 shows that the male partners' masculine identity subscores from the Bem Sex Role Inventory (1974) were higher than their female partners' and that male scores on this dimension were relatively stable over time. On the other hand, the masculine identity component for female partners decreased at the post delivery sampling time. Figure 5.2 shows that women had higher and more stable feminine identity subscores from the Bem Sex Role Inventory (1974) than the men. It is noteworthy, in Figure 5.2, that men had a higher feminine identity score after the birth of their first child.

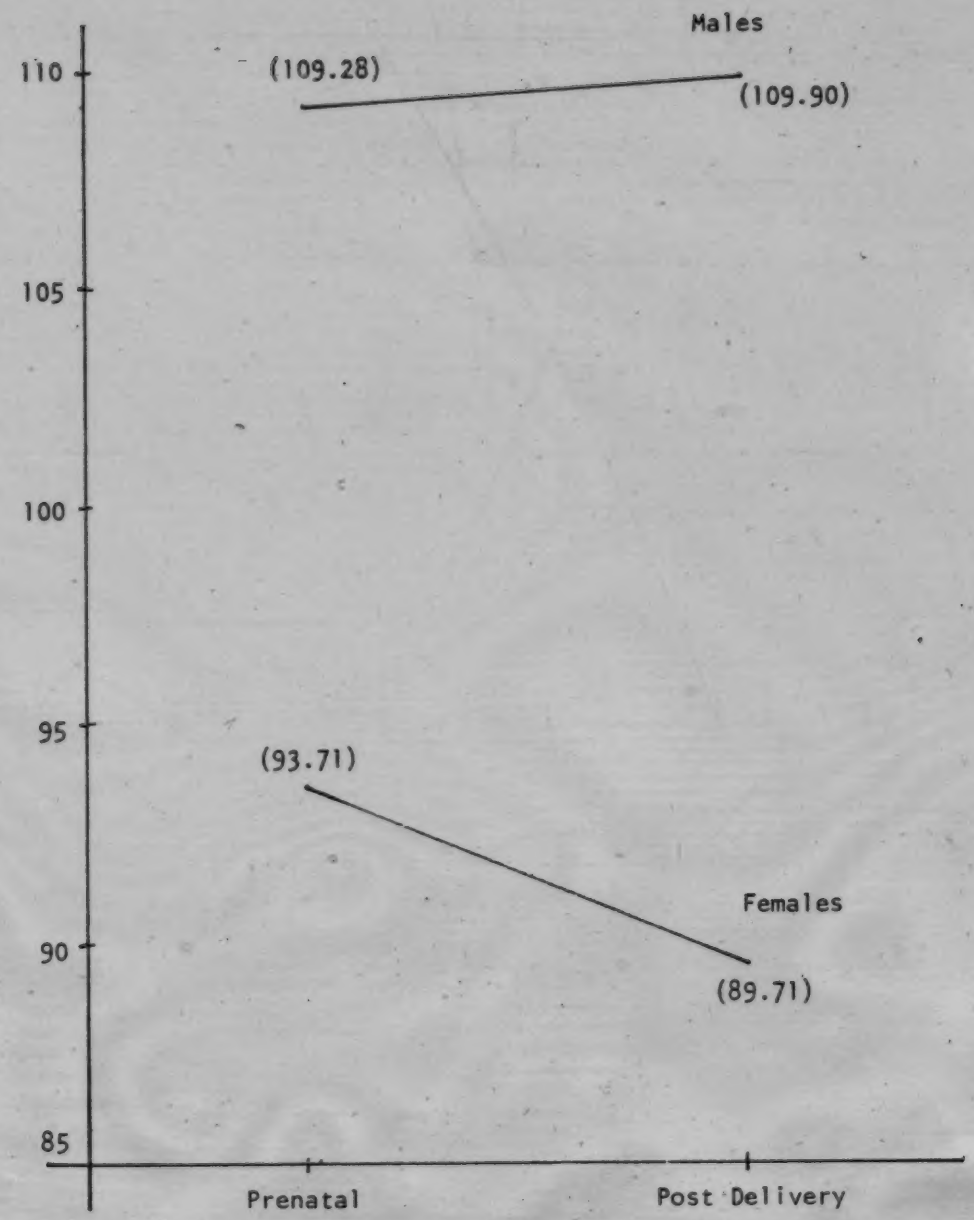


Figure 5.1 Spousal Masculine Identity' Means Before and After the Birth of the First Child

' As measured by Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974).

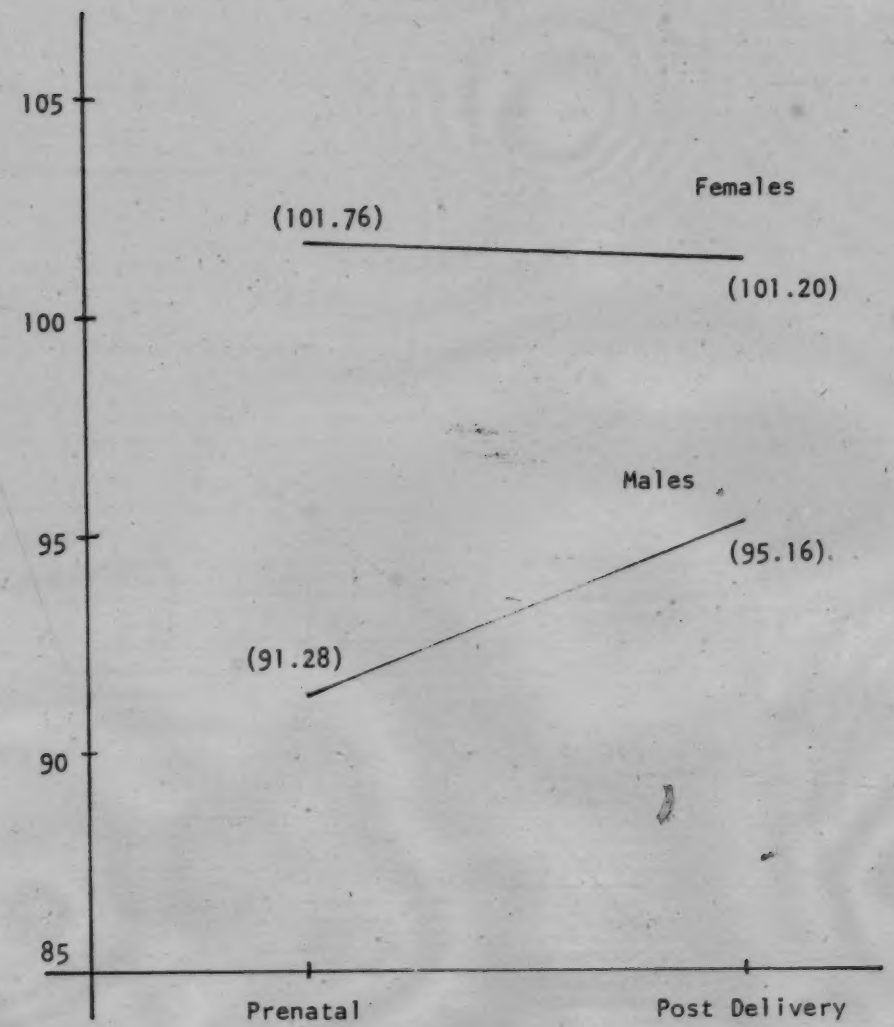


Figure 5.2 Spousal Feminine Identity' Means Before and After the Birth of the First Child

' As measured by Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974).

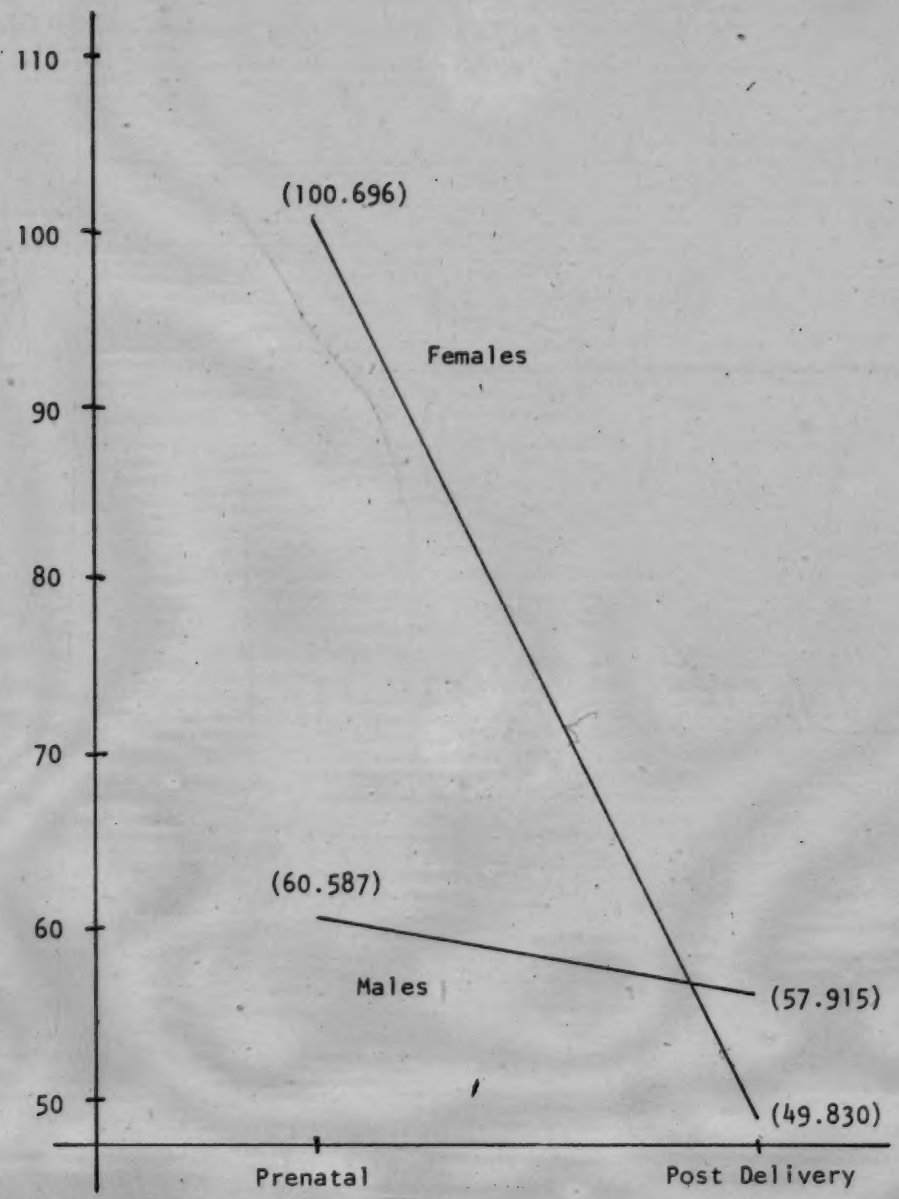


Figure 5.3 Spousal Gender Role Behavior' Means Before and After the Birth of the First Child

' As measured by Family Role Questionnaire.

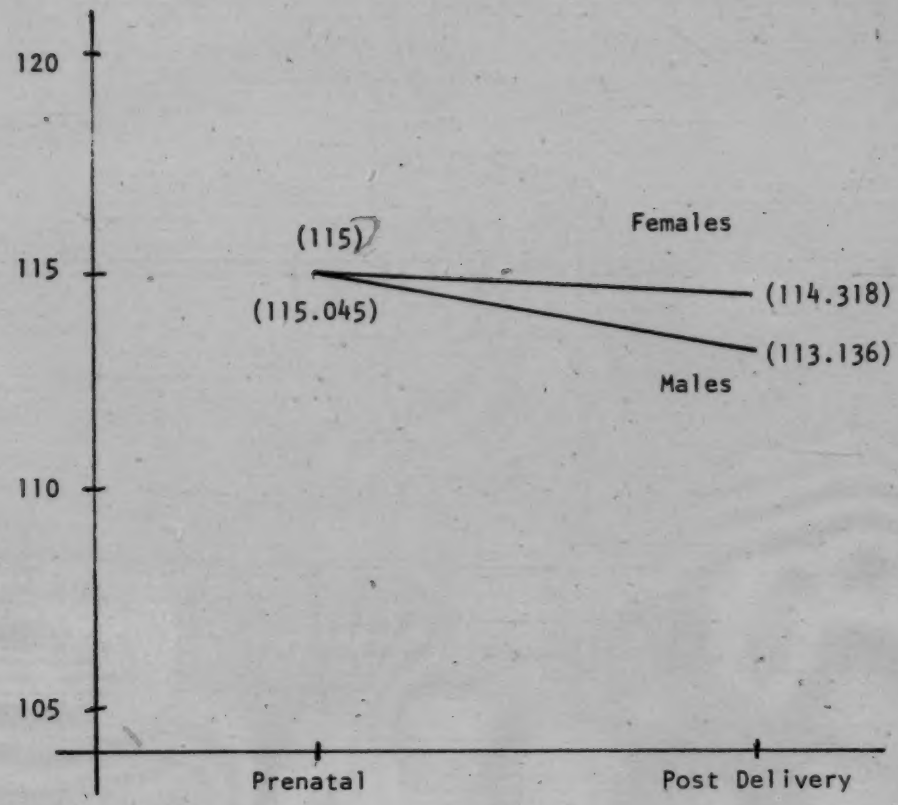


Figure 5.4 Spousal Marital Quality' Means Before and After the Birth of the First Child

' As measured by Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976).

Figure 5.3 shows a shift toward traditional gender role behavior for both sexes (a higher score indicating more equalitarian role behavior). What was extremely evident in this analysis was the dramatic shift for women post delivery.

Figure 5.4 presents spousal means on the marital quality variable. What is apparent is the stability of marital quality over this time. There was only a slight decrease for both sexes.

The two way analysis of variance with repeated measures which was run on each of the series of mean scores for masculine identity, feminine identity, gender role behavior, and marital quality, gave rise to indicators of the source of variation in these means. That is, the following questions were analyzed: does the difference in sex of respondent (male, female) explain the variation in the means for each variable?; or does the time of the measurement (prenatal, post delivery) for each of these variables have meaning?; or is the male/female difference the same at the two sampling times?

Tables 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, and 5.11 presents the summary tables of the analysis of variance on the mean scores of the variables discussed above. Table 5.8 and Table 5.9 show that there was significant sex differences for the masculine and feminine identity subscales ($p \leq .001$) and that the interaction effect between sex difference and the time of the measurement is tending toward significance ($p \leq .1$) for both. That is, male/female differences at time one and time two are not the same. Table 5.10 shows that all three sources of variance reached significance in the analysis of the gender role behavior means ($p \leq .001$). That is, as well as sex status effect and

Table 5.8

Summary Table of the Analysis of Variance on Masculine Identity* Mean Scores

Within Subject Factors are:

A - Sex : 1 Male . 2 Female

S - Test : 1 Pre . 2 Post

SOURCE	SUM OF SQUARES	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	MEAN SQUARES	F RATIO	PROBABILITY
S-WITHIN	4220.875	20.	211.044		
A	6714.258	1.	6714.258	27.419	0.001
AS-WITHIN	4897.563	20.	244.878		
B	59.965	1.	59.965	2.009	0.172
BS-WITHIN	597.063	20.	29.853		
AB	112.055	1.	112.055	3.290	0.085
ABS-WITHIN	681.250	20.	34.063		

*As measured by Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974).

Table 5.9

Summary Table of the Analysis of Variance on Feminine Identity* Mean Scores

WITHIN SUBJECT FACTORS ARE:

A - Sex : 1 Male . 2 Female

B - Test : 1 Pre . 2 Post

SOURCE	SUM OF SQUARES	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	MEAN SQUARES	F RATIO	PROBABILITY
S-WITHIN	4103.000	24.	170.958		
A	1705.664	1.	1705.664	15.915	0.001
AS-WITHIN	2572.188	24.	107.174		
B	68.848	1.	68.848	2.280	0.144
BS-WITHIN	724.625	24.	30.193		
AB	123.242	1.	123.242	3.349	0.080
ABS-WITHIN	883.188	24.	36.799		

*As measured by Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974).

Table 5.10

Summary Table of the Analysis of Variance on Gender Role Behavior* Mean Scores

Within Subject Factors Are:

A - Sex : 1 Male . 2 Female

B - Test : 1 Pre . 2 Post

SOURCE	SUM OF SQUARES	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	MEAN SQUARES	F RATIO	PROBABILITY
S-WITHIN	3612.313	22.	164.196		
A	5895.996	1.	5895.996	43.988	0.001
AS-WITHIN	2948.813	22.	134.037		
B	16479.410	1.	16479.410	91.127	0.001
BS-WITHIN	3978.500	22.	180.841		
AB	13356.172	1.	13356.172	98.665	0.001
ABS-WITHIN	2978.125	22.	135.369		

*As measured by the Family Role Questionnaire.

Table 5.11

Summary Table of the Analysis of Variance on Marital Quality* Mean Scores

Within Subject Factors Are:

A - Sex : 1 Male . 2 Female

B - Test : 1 Pre . 2 Post

SOURCE	SUM OF SQUARES	DEGREES OF FREEDOM	MEAN SQUARES	F RATIO	PROBABILITY
S-WITHIN	9840.000	21.	468.571		
A	8.336	1.	8.336	0.239	0.630
AS-WITHIN	731.000	21.	34.810		
B	36.953	1.	36.953	0.836	0.371
BS-WITHIN	928.000	21.	44.190		
AB	7.047	1.	7.047	0.352	0.559
ABS-WITHIN	420.000	21.	20.000		

*As measured by the Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976).

the interaction effect between sex and time being significant, as is the case with sex identity, analysis of variance of gender role behavior also finds that the time of measurement was significant to its variation. This means that not only does it matter which sex the respondent is and what time the responses are made, but the variation in responses for the sexes over time is not the same.

Table 5.11 demonstrates that the two way analysis of variance on the marital quality means was not statistically significant for any of the effects tested.

Table 5.12 summarizes the statistical analysis for subproblems one and two. It was found that sexual status has a significant effect on all mean scores for expressions of sex role in this research ($p \leq .001$). There was a time and measurement effect reported for gender role behavior only ($p \leq .001$). The interaction between sexual status and time of measurement was also only significant for gender role behavior ($p \leq .001$). However, a trend was seen for interaction effects on the variables masculine and feminine identity ($p \leq .10$). These latter significant findings on combined effects means that sex role expressions do not vary equally for the sexes over the transition to parenthood. Finally the analysis of variance technique gave rise to no significant findings among the marital quality means.

Subproblem Three

The third subproblem was to examine the strength of the relationship between expressions of sex role and marital quality for couples before and after the transition to parenthood. The

Table 5.12

Summary of Significant F-ratios for Analysis of Variance of Sex Role Expressions and Marital Quality Over the Transition to Parenthood

Variable Tested	Effect Tested		
	Sex	Test	Interaction
Masculine Identity	27.419 ($p \leq .001$)	-	3.290 ($p \leq .1$)
Feminine Identity	15.915 ($p \leq .001$)	-	3.349 ($p \leq .1$)
Gender Role Behavior	43.988 ($p \leq .001$)	91.127 ($p \leq .001$)	98.665 ($p \leq .001$)
Marital Quality	-	-	-

complete results of the correlational analysis of this subproblem are presented in Appendix C. This table can be logically subdivided into three smaller units for the purposes of analysis. Table 5.13 shows the correlational relationships among the variables measured prenatally and post delivery for men. Table 5.14 shows the same for women. Table 5.15 presents the relationships between the variable measures at both times for both of the sexes. Since marital quality is this study's dependent variable, the discussion of these tables (Table 5.13, 5.14, and 5.15) will focus on the relationship between the sex role expressions (masculine identity, feminine identity, and gender role behavior) and marital quality.

First to be examined will be the effect of mens' sex role expressions on their marital quality before and after the birth. Table 5.13 shows that before the birth high marital quality among the males was related to non-traditional gender role behavior on their part ($p \leq .05$). However after the transition event of birth, high marital quality for the fathers was related only to his feminine identity ($p \leq .001$). In addition, men were more likely to have high marital quality after the birth if prenatally he had high feminine identity ($p \leq .05$), or more importantly, if he had high prenatal marital quality ($p \leq .001$).

Now, sex role expressions for women and their relationships to womens' marital quality will be presented. Table 5.14 shows that for women, marital quality both before and after the transition event, was related to high feminine identity (prenatally $p \leq .05$; post delivery $p \leq .05$) and to high masculine identity (prenatally

Table 5.13

Correlation Matrix Showing the Pearson-r, the (N) and the Probability of Finding the Relationships Between Expressions of Sex Role and Marital Quality for Males Over the Parenthood Transition

	Feminine Identity Prenatally	Feminine Identity Post Delivery	Masculine Identity Prenatally	Masculine Identity Post Delivery	Gender Role Behavior Prenatally	Gender Role Behavior Post Delivery	Marital Quality Prenatally	Marital Quality Post Delivery
Feminine Identity Prenatally	1.0000 (29) P=*****							
Feminine Identity Post Delivery	0.5970 (27) P=0.001	1.0000 (28) P=*****						
Masculine Identity Prenatally	-0.0274 (28) P=0.445	0.2905 (27) P=0.071	1.0000 (29) P=*****					
Masculine Identity Post Delivery	-0.0448 (26) P=0.414	0.4174 (25) P=0.019	0.8114 (27) P=0.000	1.0000 (27) P=*****				
Gender Role Behavior/Prenatally	0.0629 (24) P=0.385	0.2351 (23) P=0.140	-0.3744 (25) P=0.033	-0.1233 (24) P=0.283	1.0000 (26) P=*****			
Gender Role Behavior/Post Delivery	-0.1287 (23) P=0.279	0.2508 (22) P=0.130	0.4130 (24) P=0.022	0.5293 (23) P=0.005	-0.0725 (25) P=0.365	1.0000 (25) P=*****		
Marital Quality Prenatally	0.3076 (26) P=0.063	0.6020 (26) P=0.001	-0.0030 (26) P=0.494	0.3626 (24) P=0.041	0.4255 (24) P=0.019	0.2029 (23) P=0.177	1.0000 (28) P=*****	
Marital Quality Post Delivery	0.3592 (26) P=0.036	0.6928 (25) P=0.000	0.0771 (27) P=0.351	0.3484 (25) P=0.044	0.1789 (25) P=0.196	0.2282 (24) P=0.142	0.8027 (25) P=0.000	1.0000 (28) P=*****

Table 5.14

Correlation Matrix Showing the Pearson-r, the (N) and the Probability of Finding the Relationships Between Expressions of Sex Role and Marital Quality for Females Over the Parenthood Transition

	Feminine Identity Prenatally	Feminine Identity Post Delivery	Masculine Identity Prenatally	Masculine Identity Post Delivery	Gender Role Behavior Prenatally	Gender Role Behavior Post Delivery	Marital Quality Prenatally	Marital Quality Post Delivery
Feminine Identity Prenatally	1.0000 (30) P=*****							
Feminine Identity Post Delivery	0.6117 (28) P=0.000	1.0000 (29) P=*****						
Masculine Identity Prenatally	0.4542 (26)	0.3292 (25)	1.0000 (26)					
Masculine Identity Post Delivery	0.3489 (26) P=0.040	0.3391 (25) P=0.049	0.7634 (24) P=0.000	1.0000 (26) P=*****				
Gender Role Behavior/Prenatally	0.2667 (26) P=0.094	0.1062 (24) P=0.311	0.3583 (23) P=0.047	0.2475 (23) P=0.127	1.0000 (26) P=*****			
Gender Role Behavior/Post Delivery	-0.0394 (26) P=0.424	-0.3222 (24) P=0.062	-0.3711 (23) P=0.041	-0.5775 (24) P=0.002	-0.0311 (24) P=0.443	1.0000 (26) P=*****		
Marital Quality Prenatally	0.3902 (29) P=0.018	0.1913 (27) P=0.170	0.4606 (25) P=0.010	0.3404 (25) P=0.048	0.0246 (25) P=0.454	-0.0356 (25) P=0.433	1.0000 (29) P=*****	
Marital Quality Post Delivery	0.1485 (28) P=0.225	0.2888 (27) P=0.072	0.3504 (24) P=0.047	0.4274 (25) P=0.017	0.0211 (24) P=0.461	-0.2426 (24) P=0.127	0.7559 (28) P=0.000	1.0000 (29) P=*****

Table 5.15

Correlation Matrix Showing the Pearson-r, the (N), and the Probability of Finding the Relationships Between Expressions of Sex Role and Marital Quality for Both Men and Women Over the Transition to Parenthood

Males \ Females	Feminine Identity Prenatally	Feminine Identity Post Delivery	Masculine Identity Prenatally	Masculine Identity Post Delivery	Gender Role Behavior Prenatally	Gender Role Behavior Post Delivery	Marital Quality Prenatally	Marital Quality Post Delivery
Feminine Identity Prenatally	0.0946 (28) P=0.316	0.1930 (27) P=0.167	0.2766 (24) P=0.095	0.3854 (24) P=0.031	0.1649 (24) P=0.221	-0.2800 (24) P=0.093	0.0898 (27) P=0.328	0.2346 (27) P=0.119
Feminine Identity Post Delivery	0.2605 (27)	0.2803 (27)	0.2190 (24)	0.1939 (24)	-0.0205 (23)	0.1946 (23)	0.4187 (26)	0.4794 (26)
Masculine Identity Prenatally	0.3255 (28) P=0.046	0.4057 (27) P=0.018	-0.0933 (24) P=0.332	-0.2479 (24) P=0.121	-0.2124 (24) P=0.159	0.2261 (25) P=0.139	-0.1707 (27) P=0.197	-0.1541 (27) P=0.221
Masculine Identity Post Delivery	0.3211 (27) P=0.051	0.2371 (25) P=0.127	-0.0338 (23) P=0.439	-0.2317 (23) P=0.144	-0.2396 (23) P=0.135	0.3295 (24) P=0.058	0.1516 (26) P=0.230	0.1346 (25) P=0.261
Gender Role Behavior/Prenatally	-0.0070 (26) P=0.486	-0.1556 (25) P=0.229	0.2018 (23) P=0.178	0.1552 (23) P=0.240	0.2412 (24) P=0.128	0.3026 (25) P=0.071	0.4164 (25) P=0.019	0.1271 (24) P=0.277
Gender Role Behavior/Post Delivery	0.0945 (25) P=0.327	-0.0287 (24) P=0.447	0.0443 (22) P=0.422	-0.3177 (23) P=0.070	-0.0736 (23) P=0.369	0.4431 (25) P=0.013	0.1336 (24) P=0.267	0.0043 (23) P=0.492
Marital Quality Prenatally	0.3937 (27) P=0.021	0.1245 (26) P=0.272	0.3736 (24) P=0.036	0.2379 (24) P=0.132	-0.0127 (24) P=0.476	0.0644 (24) P=0.382	0.8030 (26) P=0.000	0.6172 (26) P=0.000
Marital Quality Post Delivery	0.1724 (27) P=0.195	0.1796 (27) P=0.185	0.2255 (23) P=0.150	0.2852 (23) P=0.094	-0.0722 (24) P=0.369	-0.1452 (24) P=0.249	0.7637 (26) P=0.000	0.7512 (26) P=0.000

$p \leq .01$; post delivery $p \leq .05$). In addition, the mother was more likely to have high post birth marital quality if she had high prenatal masculine identity ($p \leq .05$) and not suprisingly, high prenatal marital quality ($p \leq .001$).

Finally the interaction between female sex role expressions and male marital quality and visa versa will be discussed. Table 5.15 shows that high prenatal marital quality for men was related to women's feminine identity ($p \leq .05$) and to womens' masculine identity ($p \leq .05$) during that time. No significant relationships were found between the womens' post delivery sex role expressions and mens' post partum marital quality. However, a trend for a relationship between mothers' masculine identity and fathers' marital quality was noted.

Table 5.15 also shows the relationships between mens' sex role expressions and womens' marital quality both prenatally and post delivery. High prenatal marital quality for women was significantly related to non-traditional gender role behavior among men ($p \leq .05$). After delivery, womens' marital quality is significantly related to high feminine identity among fathers ($p \leq .01$). In addition, mothers are more likely to have high marital quality after the birth if their spouses have high prenatal feminine identity ($p \leq .05$).

If Figure 5.4, which shows marital quality for both partners to be stable, is considered along with Figure 5.15, it is not surprising to find the correlational relationships between marital quality measures in Table 5.15 to be highly significant.

The tables which present the correlational analysis for

the third subproblem, by necessity, show other significant relationships than these discussed above. These were not discussed because the problem does not address itself specifically to them. In addition, these remaining relationships are among sex role expressions, which should be, by nature, related to each other.

In summary, feminine identity seems to be significant for the marital quality of both partners, especially men. On the other hand, masculine identity was also related to marital quality for both spouses, but especially for the women. Non-traditional gender role behavior in the male was related to his own marital quality before delivery. The implications of these findings will be explored in the following chapter.

Subproblems Four and Five

The fourth and fifth subproblem was to examine the relationship between changes in expressions of sex role over the transition and marital quality after the transition and also marital quality changes over the transition. The complete results of the correlational analysis of these subproblems are presented in Appendix C. As with the previous matrix, this one can also be subdivided for the purposes of analysis. Table 5.16 shows the correlational relationships among the change measures of sex role expressions and of marital quality and the marital quality measure after delivery for men. Table 5.17 presents the same relationships for women. Table 5.18 shows how the above described variables for each sex are related. The tables will be discussed with the view to highlighting

Table 5.16

Correlation Matrix Showing the Pearson-r, the (N) and the Probability of Finding the Relationships Between Changes in Sex Role Expressions and Marital Quality Over the Transition and Marital Quality After Delivery for Males

	Change in Feminine Identity	Change in Masculine Identity	Change in Gender Role Behavior	Change in Marital Quality	Marital Quality After Delivery
Change in Feminine Identity	1.0000 (27) P=*****				
Change in Masculine Identity	0.3497 (24) P=0.047	1.0000 (27) P=*****			
Change in Gender Role Behavior	0.4734 (21) P=0.015	-0.1623 (23) P=0.230	1.0000 (25) P=*****		
Change in Marital Quality	0.2071 (22) P=0.178	-0.1651 (22) P=0.231	0.1257 (22) P=0.289	1.0000 (25) P=*****	
Marital Quality After Delivery	0.3664 (24) P=0.039	0.3830 (25) P=0.029	0.0868 (24) P=0.343	0.4685 (25) P=0.009	1.0000 (28) P=*****

Table 5.17

Correlation Matrix Showing the Pearson-r, the (N) and the Probability of Finding the Relationships Between Changes in Sex Role Expressions and Marital Quality Over the Transition and Marital Quality After Delivery for Females

	Difference in Feminine Identity	Difference in Masculine Identity	Difference in Gender Role Behavior	Difference in Marital Quality	Marital Quality After Delivery
Difference in Feminine Identity	1.0000 (28) P=*****				
Difference in Masculine Identity	0.1622 (23) P=0.230	1.0000 (24) P=*****			
Difference in Gender Role Behavior	0.1335 (22) P=0.277	0.1096 (20) P=0.323	1.0000 (24) P=*****		
Difference in Marital Quality	0.5682 (26) P=0.001	0.1639 (23) P=0.227	-0.0390 (22) P=0.432	1.0000 (28) P=*****	
Marital Quality After Delivery	0.0945 (26) P=0.323	-0.0971 (23) P=0.330	-0.0555 (22) P=0.403	0.3061 (28) P=0.057	1.0000 (28) P=*****

Table 5.18

Correlation Matrix Showing the Pearson-r, the (N) and the Probability of Finding the Relationships Between Changes in Sex Role Expressions and Marital Quality Over the Transition and Marital Quality After Delivery for Males and Females

Females \ Males	Change in Feminine Identity	Change in Masculine Identity	Change in Gender Role Behavior	Change in Marital Quality	Marital Quality After Delivery
Change in Feminine Identity	-0.0987 (25) P=0.319	-0.1532 (25) P=0.232	-0.0940 (24) P=0.331	0.3965 (23) P=0.031	-0.0507 (26) P=0.403
Change in Masculine Identity	-0.3950 (21) P=0.038	-0.0658 (21) P=0.388	-0.3844 (21) P=0.043	0.2981 (19) P=0.108	-0.1081 (21) P=0.320
Change in Gender Role Behavior	0.4019 (20) P=0.040	0.1559 (22) P=0.244	0.1587 (23) P=0.235	0.0925 (21) P=0.345	0.0230 (23) P=0.459
Change in Marital Quality	-0.0544 (24) P=0.400	-0.0605 (25) P=0.387	0.0725 (23) P=0.371	0.3775 (22) P=0.042	-0.0424 (25) P=0.420
Marital Quality After Delivery	0.2725 (25) P=0.094	0.4579 (25) P=0.011	-0.0670 (23) P=0.381	0.3268 (23) P=0.064	0.7512 (26) P=0.000

the relationships between the dependent variable marital quality and the independent variables of sex role expressions.

First to be examined will be the relationships between changes in sex role expressions and both marital quality change and marital quality after delivery for men. Table 5.16 shows no significant relationships between sex role expression changes and changes in marital quality over the transition to parenthood for men. But high change in both masculine identity and feminine identity was significantly related to the fathers' post delivery high marital quality ($p \leq .05$). In addition, about 20% of the new fathers' marital quality was explained by high change in marital quality ($p \leq .01$) over the transition to parenthood.

Next, it was noted, using Table 5.17, that high positive feminine identity change for women was related to high change in women's marital quality over the transition to parenthood ($p < .001$). In addition, there was a trend for significance between high post delivery marital quality and large marital quality change over the transition for women ($p \leq .10$). In this case only about 9 percent of new mothers' marital quality is explained by large changes in marital quality over the transition.

Finally, Table 5.18, which shows the interacting relationships between both mothers' and fathers' marital quality, marital quality change and sex role expression changes, is discussed. It seems that changes in marital quality for both men and women are significantly related ($p \leq .05$). Womens' post delivery marital quality was found to be significantly related to masculine identity

differences among the males ($p \leq .05$). In addition, there was a trend towards significant relationships between women's post delivery marital quality and men's high feminine identity changes (explaining only 7 percent of new mothers' marital quality) and men's high change in marital quality (explaining only 10 percent of new mothers' marital quality) ($p \leq .10$).

In summary, the relationship between sex role identity changes and both men's and women's marital quality were statistically significant. In addition, there is a cross sexual relationship, where men's changes in both masculinity and femininity are related to post delivery marital quality for women. With respect to relationships between marital quality measures, changes in spousal marital quality are related to each other and individually marital quality change was found to be related to post delivery marital quality for both parents.

SUMMARY

The sample for this research has been described as necessarily young. The couples have lived together at least since conception of their child. They have a lower education level than a representative sample from the city sampled, but their vocational school representation was proportional to the larger city sample. Over the time of the study, men tended to become fully employed and women tended to leave the work force. On the whole, their birth experiences were positive and their newborns were all evaluated by physicians to be within the range of normal.

When analysis of variance was used to compare and contrast the expressions of sex role and marital quality for the partners

over the transition, it was found that for identity variables, sex of the respondent explained the variance over time. In addition, there was a trend which indicated for the sex role identity variables (masculinity and femininity), men's and women's changes were different. Sex, time, and the interaction of sex and time was found to explain variance in gender role behavior. None of these sources of variance explained differences in marital quality, possibly because it varied little over the transition to parenthood.

When the relationship between sex role expressions and marital quality measures before and after the birth were analyzed using a correlational technique, sex role identity measures were significantly associated to marital quality scores for men and women separately. Non-traditional gender role behavior in males was related to their own prenatal marital quality and to his partner's post delivery marital quality.

The final set of questions addressed involved examination of sex role expression change on marital quality change and on marital quality after the birth. For males, sex role identity changes were significantly related to post delivery marital quality. For women only feminine identity change was significantly related to marital quality change. When relationships between the partners' variable scores were examined, mothers' change in feminine identity was related to husbands' change in marital quality and a change in masculinity among the fathers explained 18 percent of the wives post delivery marital quality score.

In conclusion, sex role identity measures are the

independent variables that proved most highly related to marital quality. But there was an astonishingly strong variation in gender role behavior which was explained by sex, time, and the interaction between sex and time.

CHAPTER VI

DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

This chapter will discuss the implications of the findings from the statistical analysis of the research problems. The findings will be discussed according to research problems. Implications for family life education will be explored. Finally, the strengths and weaknesses of the research and suggestions for further exploration will be presented.

SUBPROBLEMS ONE AND TWO

Subproblems one and two compared and contrasted the change in sex role expressions and marital quality for both partners over the transition to parenthood. On the face of it, it was found that women's masculine identity scores decreased over the transition to parenthood, that men's feminine identity scores increased and that both sexes' gender role behavior became more traditional, women's dramatically so. Marital quality for all intents and purposes was stable over the time period studied. Not surprisingly, analysis of variance techniques, showed a sex effect on all sex role expression measures. In addition, however, an interaction effect was noted between sex and time which indicated that the sexes didn't change equally. Each of the variables, sex role identity, gender role behavior and marital quality will now be discussed in turn, and the implications and suggestions arising from each discussion will be stated.

In general, the findings from the masculinity and femininity subscales of the Bem Sex Role Inventory (1974) support the notion of

the duality of sex role identity, thus lending credence to the breaking down of rigid categorization of personality traits into masculine appropriate and feminine appropriate. The findings also support this researcher's assumption that a person's sex role identity is dynamic. In addition, the trend toward an interaction effect on the analysis of variance of the sex role identity variable indicates that the sexes don't change equally. Looking at the family as a system which grows and develops over time and which is affected by transition stages one could suggest that the addition of the new family member brings about unique changes in each partner's individual subsystems.

The application of Rossi's (1968) mini theory which was presented in the review of the literature is also appropriate in the discussion of the sex role identity findings. If the feminine subscale on the Bem measure can be considered a measure of feminine traits such as expressiveness, then the increased identification by males with feminine traits on the Bem Sex Role Inventory (1974) meets with Rossi's (1968) notion that new fathers need to become more expressive in order to assume the parent role effectively. A more complicated discussion is needed to explain the findings that new mother's masculine identity scores decreased over the parenthood transition.

Rossi (1968) supposes that a new mother needs to assume instrumental traits in order to meet her parenting responsibilities. From this it could be extrapolated that the female partners in this study should have increased, not decreased in their scores on the masculine subscale (Bem, 1974). This not being the case, several alternative views might be presented - one related to the change in

work role, the other related to the feminine quality of the parenting experience. The women in this sample had all experienced a change in their work role at the time of the transition: Could it not be possible that when employed, a woman needs more instrumental traits than when at home as a new mother? This sample did not allow a test of this possibility. Either an examination of sex role identity at appropriate time panels (preconception, pregnancy, and post delivery for not working and working new mothers) or a thorough inventory of the work role and the new mother role as to their instrumental content is needed to fully answer the question.

In addition, the initial aspects of the parenting role appears to have more feminine aspects than masculine ones. Indeed the instrumental nature of the mothering role in our culture probably increases as the child develops. This researcher suggests that a life cycle study of parental sex role identity responses from conception to adolescence might be an appropriate new area of study.

The move of both partners' gender role behavior toward the traditional side of the continuum was predicted by Cowan et al. (1978) and Hoffman (1978). They suggested that this was due to a change in the woman's view and a decrease in her marital power through absence from the work role (Hoffman, 1978) or that it was due to a change in perception of mutual roles and a response to stressful transition (Cowan et al., 1978). The dramatic nature of the shift for new mothers in this study however may have been influenced by the researcher's scoring technique which weighted the work role as non-traditional for women both before and after the birth. While Price-Bonham (1976) found no difference between weighted and unweighted scores in family

decision making it is possible that the trend is accentuated by the technique utilized. Further analysis is suggested to assess the impact of weighting in the study. For example, a question remains in the researcher's mind as to whether working before marriage is an indication of traditional or non-traditional role behavior. In the present weighting scheme it was assumed to be non-traditional. This assumption needs further study.

The move toward more traditional role behavior may be occurring for practical reasons. Allocating roles on an equalitarian basis demands greater negotiation. The parenthood transition period is one in which little time is available for negotiation of old roles, so couples may fall into sex specific role allocations (more traditional) in order to accommodate the negotiation of parenting roles. Parenthood as well accentuates traditional roles of men and women. Motherhood is the ultimate example of a traditional female role. This may also contribute to more traditional role behavior in other home and work related areas.

An additional issue with respect to the gender role behavior variable is a measurement issue. Only a moderate level of face validity could be argued. There are no strong measures of gender role behavior available. Indeed, the whole area of measurement development and refinement in family studies needs attention as Hodgson and Lewis (1977) have pointed out. Only 5 percent of the research reported in 614 journal articles related to methodology or measurement issues.

Marital quality was stable over this time period of the parenthood transition. While it was argued in the conceptual view of this research that the critical event of parenthood would have an

effect on marital relations this was not apparent. The developmental nature of the childbearing phase as described by Duvall (1967) has tasks or goals specifically directed at the marital relationship, (e.g., maintaining a satisfying relationship with her husband, and maintaining a mutually satisfying companionship with his wife). Perhaps it is these culturally set goals which keep the marital quality stable over the immediate transition period examined by this research. It may be that the life cycle literature on marital quality which shows a decrease during the childbearing and child rearing years (Burr, 1970; Rollins & Cannon, 1974; Rollins & Feldman, 1970; Spanier, Lewis, & Cole, 1975) are tapping the parents after the honeymoon stage of this role transition. Since this research can only be said to sample the honeymoon stage, the longer term decrease in marital quality demonstrated by Wente and Crackenberg (1976) and Grossman et al. (1980) could not be detected. Therefore, this researcher proposes the use of more post delivery panels in future study of marital quality over the transition to parenthood. Larger samples would be needed to compensate for projected attrition over a longer time period.

An additional explanation for lack of marital quality change over the transition period was proposed by Russell (1974). She suggested that these second panel non-respondents may be experiencing difficulty such that they either do not wish to report the problems or that they have no time to submit the questionnaire. Secondary analysis of the first panel data for the renegers in this study's sample may give some evidence to this end, just as secondary analysis of Russell's (1974) data did.

In summary, this researcher has found support for change in individual sex role expressions as measured by sex role identity scores during the immediate parenthood transition. Parenthood appeared to have an impact for both men and women, with increases on the feminine subscale noted for men and a decrease on the masculine subscale noted for women. In addition viewing sex role identity as a continuum rather than two end points was affirmed. Gender role behavior changed as the literature predicted it would, toward traditional patterns for both partners. Marital quality on the other hand was stable, perhaps because of cultural dictation or because the time period assessed was too short to detect relationship shifts.

New research into the nature of the parenthood role with respect to instrumental and expressive aspects over the life cycle was proposed, as was further development of instruments which would handle gender role behavior more adequately. In addition, secondary analysis in the form of rescoring and weighting of the gender role behavior variable was suggested.

SUBPROBLEM THREE

The third subproblem examined the strength of the relationships between expressions of sex role and marital quality for the partners before and after the birth of the first child. The general findings of the correlational technique used to analyse this problem are summarized below.

The significant relationships between men's post delivery high feminine identity scores and both partners' post delivery high marital quality, and the significant relationships between men's pre-

natal non-traditional gender role behavior and both spouses' high prenatal marital quality will be explored first. The propositions from the conceptual framework help explain these findings. Developmental theory proposes that the parenthood transition event, which consists of the addition of the newborn to the family will change the family roles. This idea of a shift in family role is presented by Duvall (1967) as tasks or goals for the spouses. Systems theory proposes that change in one part of the family system would bring change to the other system. In this case the males' individual subsystem seems to be adapting in response to the transition event. The relationship between males' prenatal non-traditional gender role behavior and marital quality of both spouses may be the individual male subsystems' response to the need for prenatal sharing of all marital tasks including the work role and the home role. The decrease in the strength of this prenatal relationship between men's non-traditional gender role behavior and spousal marital quality accompanied by a strengthening of the relationship between increased males' feminine identity scores and increased post delivery marital quality for both partners may be a similar individual subsystem response on his part. The need for this shift in response may be brought about by two things. Firstly, most of the new mothers in this study were not employed outside the home, hence there was a decreased need for non-traditional gender role behavior on the spouses' part. Secondly, the new mothers' and the children's needs for nurturance after the delivery may be prompting the fathers' rise in femininity. Cronkite's (1977) research into preferences for family roles gives empirical support for the above discussion. She found that spouses made rapid mutual adjustments and that social pressures also

influenced family role change. Here in this study rapid adjustment on the part of the father was made in response to the effect of birth and the accompanying cultural expectations of both his and his partner's behavior.

Women's high masculine identity scores were significantly related to both spouses' marital quality, both before and after the birth of the child. This clearly implies that culturally defined masculine traits are needed to successfully attain marital quality for women. This finding, coupled with the previous finding that high femininity identity scores are useful for males' attainment of marital quality, suggests that longitudinal research into the nature of the sex identity component of the marital role for both spouses might be a useful research direction. As with the parental role, discussed previously, an indepth inventory of marital role behavior and the likely traits useful for their enactment would also be useful.

In summary, the findings from the third research question suggest that the individual subsystem within the family may be more important than was previously thought. That is perhaps the smoothness of couples of family transitions are due to significant change on the part of the individuals involved. The discussion of the findings from the fourth and fifth research problems pursues this idea.

SUBPROBLEMS FOUR AND FIVE

The fourth and fifth subproblems examined the relationship between changes in expressions of sex role over the transition to parenthood and marital quality change as well as post delivery marital quality. Larger increases in masculinity and femininity scores among

the males was significantly related to both spouses' high post delivery marital quality. In addition, larger increases in feminine identity scores among the females were related to mother's post delivery marital quality. Finally, it seemed that larger increases in marital quality was related to higher post marital quality for both men and women.

In general there was a significant relationship between increases in sex role identification scores and high marital quality after delivery. Once again this supports the notion previously discussed that flexibility on the part of the individual subsystem may maintain stability in the marital relationship. This researcher would like to propose that the findings that show positive change in the sex role expressions as significantly related to post delivery marital quality may support Bem's (1975) notion that high masculinity and high femininity (androgyny) are conducive to flexibility in role behavior. Tables 5.13 and 5.14 show that high prenatal masculinity and femininity for both partners, perhaps indicating that these original high scores were the couples who had high positive change (Tables 5.16 and 5.17). These latter high post delivery variable scores for sex role identity were significantly related to high marital quality over the transition event, hence perhaps showing that high sex role identity within both the masculine and feminine realms is important for overall flexible family role behavior.

SUMMARY

On the basis of these findings, this researcher suggests that the transition event may impact on the individual subsystems, changing their sex role expressions perhaps in response to marital or

to parental needs. For example, the mother's needs may change from that of expecting concrete support to that of needing emotional nurturance. In response to this, the father increases his nurturant qualities and moves toward traditional gender role behavior. The end result of all this may be that marital quality across the immediate transition time is maintained, but the individual subsystems have changed considerably in order to keep it that way. On the other hand, it cannot be denied that perhaps the sex role expressions of gender role behavior and sex role identity may change for other reasons, that are divorced both from each other and the marital needs of the couple.

The lack of mean change in marital quality over the immediate transition period was implied in this discussion to be due to cultural convention surrounding the transition event. On the other hand, there is considerable evidence that it does change more distantly from the birth event.

New research into the area of sex role identity traits needed for marital and parental roles over the life cycle was proposed, as was the need for longitudinal study of marital quality past the immediate parenthood transition examined by this researcher. In addition, the development of better instrumentation of gender role behavior was proposed. Finally, a rethinking of our ideas regarding the traditionality of certain family roles and their weighting in the scheme of family life was suggested.

IMPLICATIONS

The following discussion is a follow-up on the suggestion in Chapter I, that findings from this research may suggest directions

for change in family life education directed at the first parenthood experience. It is important to emphasize that the findings from this research would be as important to couples approaching the childbearing decision as it is to those in the midst of the parenthood transition.

This study shows that couples move toward traditional family role behavior during the immediate post delivery period. It may be that this shift is temporary and that a subsequent return to prepregnancy gender role behavior is possible. In any case, anticipatory guidance regarding the probable dynamic nature of family role behavior should be included in premarital, prepregnancy and prenatal family life education. Couples could then make informed decisions about taking on parenthood roles and/or develop strategies to deal with the post delivery shifts in role behavior.

This study demonstrated that the individual subsystem changed more dramatically during this time than did the couple relationship. Present prenatal education curicula stress the mothers' pregnancy and delivery experience and the couple aspects of parenthood. This researcher's finding that the men became more expressive or nurturant indicates a need to place more emphasis on their needs. Perhaps separate meetings with experienced fathers willing to talk about this aspect of their transition experience would be beneficial.

In summary, there is a need for couples to understand the dynamic nature of their family roles. In addition, the individual aspects of the transition impact should be illuminated especially for men.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The discussion now turns to a summary of the strengths and weaknesses of the research. They can be generally stated to be involved with the following issues: the sample, the instrumentation, the statistical analysis and the design.

The Sample

Although this sample seems to be fairly representative of the Edmonton population (Northcott & Kinzel, 1980; Kinzel, 1981), an additional comparison with the vital statistics on primipara births for the city would improve its guarded generalizability. Only identification of the entire pregnant population and subsequent random sampling would warrant general interpretation of findings. If this were possible those couples who do not attend prenatal classes (e.g., the very young and the disadvantaged) would then be represented in the sample.

The Instrumentation

The family role questionnaire was not precise, in fact only moderate face validity can be argued. This limitation leads the researcher to suggest that family investigators involve themselves in this area of measuring family behavior.

The Statistical Analysis

This research at once finds strength and weaknesses in its statistical analysis. The use of the couple as the unit of analysis is a progressive step in family study. But because the data was structured in this way, complete data for both partners on the variables

tested was needed before the couple could be included in the analysis. For this reason many of the N's in particular tests were lower than the total sample.

The Design

The use of only two panels on the pretest posttest design picked up only the immediate changes for the individuals and the couples. There is reason to believe that the use of a third panel at six months would better measure marital quality change and perhaps would detect further variance in the individual variables over this time. For this reason, once again, as in all development research longitudinal studies are encouraged for the future.

The use of a control group matched on some individual and family variables would be a useful way of validating the impact of the parenthood transition on the sex role identity variable measured by this research. That is, perhaps the variation in sex role identity occurs all the time over the life cycle, not just at times of more stress, such as family transition points.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRES

Division of Family Studies

FACULTY OF HOME ECONOMICS

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Winter, 1981

Parents-to-be:

The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to a research project in the hope that you will volunteer to participate in it.

The purpose of this research is to determine whether parents-to-be change their ideas about themselves, their family roles and their couple roles during pregnancy and the early parenting experience.

Your decision to become involved in this research is voluntary and even if you agree to participate initially you may discontinue your involvement at any time. The information I receive from you will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone, including your partner. Only the group results will be used by myself. I am a registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Presently, I am working towards obtaining a master's degree in family studies. This research is a requirement for that degree. If you would like a copy of the findings, you will be given an opportunity to request them at a later date.

If you should agree to participate each partner will be required to fill out two questionnaires, but you will be asked not to work together while filling them out. Each questionnaire will take about 15 minutes to complete. The first will be sent to you next week and the second will be sent to you about eight weeks after you deliver your baby.

If you and your partner fit the categories described below, you are eligible to participate in this study.

1. Both of you are the natural parents of the expected child.

2. This is the first pregnancy experience for each of you.

3. You live together.

... 2

If you fit the categories and you agree to participate, please fill out the information portion below and bring it to next week's prenatal class.

This information will be destroyed after the second questionnaire is complete. After that time you will be identified by a number only.

This study is intended to contribute to a better understanding of the effects of first pregnancies on the roles that individuals assume in parenting their first born. Your participation will make an important contribution to that understanding.

If you wish to make any further inquiries about this research, please telephone me after 5:00 p.m. at 434-7254.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Ligowski

Jane Ligowski, R.N., B.Sc.N.

We agree to participate in this research:

NAMES _____

_____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

Questionnaire #1

Couple # _____

The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain information about the possibility of parents-to-be changing their ideas about themselves, their family roles and their marital roles during pregnancy and the early parenting period. This information is being collected now and the second questionnaire will be given to you after the birth of your baby.

Your answers will be strictly confidential. You will be identified by a number only. Both this questionnaire and the follow-up questionnaire will have the same number, so all of your answers can be put together.

There are four sections to the questionnaire. In the first part you are asked for general information, in the second section you are asked to describe yourself using an adjective check list, in the third part you are asked to describe how you and your partner divide up your family tasks, and in the final section you are asked for information on aspects of your relationship with your partner.

Please do not work together while answering this questionnaire.

I. This section asks for general information. Please answer each question by circling the number preceding the appropriate response or by writing in the blank space as required.

1: Sex

1. male
2. female

2: How old were you on your last birthday?

_____ years

3: What is your relationship status?

1. married for the first time
2. remarried
3. living together but not married

4: How long have you been married to/living with your present partner?

_____ years: _____ months.

5: What is the highest level of education you achieved?

1. elementary school graduation
2. high school graduation
3. some post high school education (including technical school)
4. bachelors degree from a university
5. some university post graduate courses
6. masters degree
7. doctoral degrees (medical doctor or barrister)
8. other _____ (specify)

6: What is your current employment status?

1. employed
2. unemployed
3. on leave of absence with pay
4. on leave of absence without pay
5. student
6. other _____ (specify)

7: What is your usual occupation (not where you work) eg: nurse, welder, homemaker, teller, farmer _____ (specify)

8: Is this your first pregnancy?

1. yes
2. no

9: When is your baby expected?

Month _____ Day _____

II. This series of questions is about how you see yourself. Please circle the appropriate number of the 7 point scale indicating how well each of the following personality characteristics describe you.

		never or almost never true	usually not true	sometimes but infrequently true	occassionally true	often true	usually true	always or almost always true
10:	self-reliant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11:	yielding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12:	helpful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13:	defend my own beliefs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14:	cheerful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15:	moody	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16:	independent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17:	shy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18:	conscientious	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19:	athletic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20:	affectionate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21:	theatrical	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22:	assertive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23:	flatterable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24:	happy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25:	strong personality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26:	loyal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27:	unpredictable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28:	forceful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29:	feminine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30:	reliable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31:	analytical	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32:	sympathetic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33:	jealous	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	never or almost never true	usually not true	sometimes but infrequently true	occassionally true	often true	usually true	always or almost always true
34: leadership abilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35: sensitive to the needs of others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36: truthful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37: willing to take risks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38: understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
39: secretive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40: make decisions easily	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41: compassionate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
42: sincere	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43: self-sufficient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
44: eager to soothe hurt feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45: conceited	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46: dominant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47: soft spoken	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
48: likeable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
49: masculine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50: warm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
51: solemn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
52: willing to take a stand	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
53: tender	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
54: friendly	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55: aggressive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
56: gullible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
57: inefficient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Q-1
-5-

	never or almost never true	usually not true	sometimes but infrequently true	occassionally true	often true	usually true	always or almost always true
58: act as a leader	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
59: childlike	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
60: adaptable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
61: individualistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62: use harsh language	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
63: unsympathetic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
64: competitive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
65: love children	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
66: tactful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67: ambitious	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
68: gentle	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
69: conventional	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

III. This third section asks questions about how you and your partner divide up some of the family roles. Please circle the number which best describes your situation.

70: How many hours were you employed for pay last week?

1. greater than 25 hours
2. less than 25 hours
3. not at all

Each couple assigns household tasks differently. Please indicate how you and your partner divide up the tasks by circling the number that is closest to the pattern you use.

	female partner mainly	female partner only	shared	male partner mainly	male partner only	employed other	not applicable
71: who usually shops for groceries?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
72: who usually does the household repairs?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
73: who usually does the cooking?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
74: who usually does the cleaning?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
75: who usually does the laundry?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
76: who usually does the financial planning?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
77. who usually does the yard work?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
78: who usually does or plans for auto maintenance?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
79: who usually keeps track of your social calendar?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
80: who usually makes your vacation plans?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Q-1
-7-

IV. The final section concerns itself with how you feel about your relationship with your partner.

Most persons have disagreements in their relationships. Please circle below the choice which best approximates the extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the following list.

	always agree	almost always agree	occasionally disagree	frequently disagree	almost always disagree	always disagree
81: handling of family finances	5	4	3	2	1	0
82: matters of recreation	5	4	3	2	1	0
83: religious matters	5	4	3	2	1	0
84: demonstrations of affection	5	4	3	2	1	0
85: friends	5	4	3	2	1	0
86: sex relations	5	4	3	2	1	0
87: conventionality (correct or proper behavior)	5	4	3	2	1	0
88: philosophy of life	5	4	3	2	1	0
89: ways of dealing with parents or in-laws	5	4	3	2	1	0
90: aims, goals and things believed to be important	5	4	3	2	1	0
91: amount of time spent together	5	4	3	2	1	0
92: making major decisions	5	4	3	2	1	0
93: household tasks	5	4	3	2	1	0
94: leisure time interests and hobbies	5	4	3	2	1	0
95: career decisions	5	4	3	2	1	0

Please circle the approximate frequency with which you and your partner engage in the following activities.

	all the time	most of the time	more often then not	occasionally	rarely	never
96: How often do you discuss divorce, separation or termination of your relationship?	0	1	2	3	4	5
97: How often do you or your mate leave the house after a fight?	0	1	2	3	4	5
98: How often do things between you and your partner go well?	0	1	2	3	4	5
99: Do you confide in your partner?	0	1	2	3	4	5
100: Do you ever regret that you married or lived together?	0	1	2	3	4	5
101: How often do you and your partner quarrel?	0	1	2	3	4	5
102: How often do you and your partner get on each others nerves?	0	1	2	3	4	5

Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationship during the past week. (Circle yes or no).

103: Being too tired for sex

0. yes

1. no

104: Not showing love

0. yes

1. no

105: The dots on the following line represent different degrees of happiness in your relationship. The middle point "happy", represents the degree of happiness expected in the average relationship. Please circle the dot which best describes the degree of happiness, all things considered, of your relationship.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Extremely Unhappy	Fairly Unhappy	A Little Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	Extremely Happy	Perfectly Happy

106: Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship? Please circle the best description of your feelings.

1. I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.
2. I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do all I can to see that it does.
3. I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does.
4. It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing how to help it succeed.
5. It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
6. My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going.

In addition to having disagreements couples also engage in what are generally considered to be pleasurable activities together. Please circle the most appropriate response for the following two questions.

107: Do you kiss your partner?

0. never
1. rarely
2. occasionally
3. almost every day
4. every day

108: Do you and your partner engage in outside interests together?

0. none of them
1. very few of them
2. some of them
3. most of them
4. all of them

What is your estimation of the frequency with which the following events occur between you and your partner? Please circle the most appropriate answer for your situation.

	never	less than once a month	once or twice a month	once or twice a week	once a day	more often
109: have a stimulating exchange of ideas	0	1	2	3	4	5
110: laugh together	0	1	2	3	4	5
111: calmly discuss something	0	1	2	3	4	5
112: work together on a project	0	1	2	3	4	5

Thank you for your interest in the research. The second questionnaire will be sent to you after your baby is born.

If you should move before that time, please send me a change of address on the card provided.

Questionnaire #2

Couple # _____

The purpose of this questionnaire is to obtain information about the possibility of parents-to-be changing their ideas about themselves, their family roles and their marital roles during pregnancy and the early parenting period. You have already filled in the first questionnaire during your pregnancy. This second questionnaire is very similar to the first one.

Your answers will be strictly confidential. You will be identified by a number only. Both of these questionnaires have the same number so your answers can be put together.

Thank you for your help in gathering information about this important and exciting event. It is only through the cooperation of people like yourselves that we will be able to understand how real families are affected by changes such as childbirth.

Before you begin this questionnaire, I must remind you once again not to work together while answering the questions.

I. This section asks for information about your baby and his or her delivery. Please answer each question by circling the number preceding the appropriate response or by writing in the blank space as required.

1: When was your baby born?

Day _____ Month _____

2: How would you rate your birth experience?

1. depressing
2. unpleasant
3. so - so
4. exciting
5. exhilarating

3: How long was your labor?

Hours _____

4: Did you have any complications? e.g., a cesarean section, an induced labor, an extremely painful labor, need of a fetal monitor.

1. yes
2. no

Comment _____

_____

5: What is your baby's sex?

1. male
2. female

6: How much did your baby weigh?

lbs. _____ oz. _____

7: How is your baby being fed?

1. breast
2. formula
3. both

8: Was your doctor satisfied with the physical development of your baby at birth?

1. yes
2. no. Comment _____

_____

9: What is the sleeping pattern of your baby?

1. less than 10 hours per day
2. 10 - 15 hours per day
3. 16 - 20 hours per day
4. 20 - 24 hours per day

10: What is the crying pattern of your baby?

1. less than 2 hours per day
2. 2 - 4 hours per day
3. 5 - 6 hours per day
4. 7 - 8 hours per day
5. more than 8 hours per day

11: How long was mother hospitalized?

_____ days

12: How long was baby hospitalized?

_____ days

The remainder of this section asks for general information about you. Please answer each question by circling the number preceding the appropriate response or by writing in the blank space as required.

13: What is your sex?

1. male
2. female

14: What is your current employment status?

1. employed
2. unemployed
3. on leave of absence with pay
4. on leave of absence without pay
5. student
6. other _____ (specify)

15: What is your usual occupation (not where you work) e.g., nurse, welder, homemaker, teller, farmer) _____ (specify)

II. This series of questions is about how you see yourself. Please circle the appropriate number of the 7 point scale indicating how well each of the following personality characteristics describe you.

		never or almost never true	usually not true	sometimes but infrequently true	occassionally true	often true	usually true	always or almost always true
16:	self-reliant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17:	yielding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18:	helpful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19:	defend my own beliefs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20:	cheerful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21:	moody	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22:	independent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23:	shy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24:	conscientious	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25:	athletic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
26:	affectionate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27:	theatrical	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28:	assertive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29:	flatterable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30:	happy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31:	strong personality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32:	loyal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33:	unpredictable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34:	forceful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35:	feminine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36:	reliable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37:	analytical	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38:	sympathetic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
39:	jealous	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	never or almost never true	usually not true	sometimes but infrequently true	occassionally true	often true	usually true	always or almost always true
40: leadership abilities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41: sensitive to the needs of others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
42: truthful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43: willing to take risks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
44: understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45: secretive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46: make decisions easily	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47: compassionate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
48: sincere	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
49: self-sufficient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30: eager to soothe hurt feelings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
51: conceited	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
52: dominant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
53: soft spoken	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
54: likeable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
55: masculine	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
56: warm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
57: solemn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
58: willing to take a stand	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
59: tender	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
60: friendly	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
61: aggressive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
62: gullible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
63: inefficient	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

		never or almost never true	usually not true	sometimes but infrequently true	occassionally true	often true	usually true	always or almost always true
64:	act as a leader	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
65:	childlike	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
66:	adaptable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67:	individualistic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
68:	use harsh language	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
69:	unsympathetic	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
70:	competitive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
71:	love children	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
72:	tactful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
73:	ambitious	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
74:	gentle	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
75:	conventional	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

III. This third section asks questions about how you and your partner divide up some of the family roles. Please circle the number which best describes your situation.

76: How many hours were you employed for pay last week?

1. greater than 25 hours
2. less than 25 hours
3. not at all

Each couple assigns household tasks differently. Please indicate how you and your partner divide up the tasks by circling the number that is closest to the pattern you use.

	female partner mainly	female partner only	shared	male partner mainly	male partner only	employed other	not applicable
77: who usually shops for groceries?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
78: who usually does the household repairs?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
79: who usually does the cooking?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
80: who usually does the cleaning?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
81: who usually does the laundry?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
82: who usually does the financial planning?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
83: who usually does the yard work?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
84: who usually does or plans for auto maintenance?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
85: who usually keeps track of your social calendar?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
86: who usually makes your vacation plans?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

87: How often a week are you sole caretaker for the baby?
(That is, you are left alone with the child for more than an hour)

1. once
2. twice
3. three times
4. four times
5. five or more times

IV. The final section concerns itself with how you feel about your relationship with your partner.

Most persons have disagreements in their relationships. Please circle below the choice which best approximates the extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your partner for each item on the following list.

	always agree	almost always agree	occasionally disagree	frequently disagree	almost always disagree	always disagree
88: handling of family finances	5	4	3	2	1	0
89: matters of recreation	5	4	3	2	1	0
90: religious matters	5	4	3	2	1	0
91: demonstrations of affection	5	4	3	2	1	0
92: friends	5	4	3	2	1	0
93: sex relations	5	4	3	2	1	0
94: conventionality (correct or proper behavior)	5	4	3	2	1	0
95: philosophy of life	5	4	3	2	1	0
96: ways of dealing with parents or in-laws	5	4	3	2	1	0
97: aims, goals and things believed to be important	5	4	3	2	1	0
98: amount of time spent together	5	4	3	2	1	0
99: making major decisions	5	4	3	2	1	0
100: household tasks	5	4	3	2	1	0
101 leisure time interests and hobbies	5	4	3	2	1	0
102 career decisions	5	4	3	2	1	0

Please circle the approximate frequency with which you and your partner engage in the following activities.

	all the time	most of the time	more often then not	occasionally	rarely	never
103: How often do you discuss divorce, separation or termination of your relationship?	0	1	2	3	4	5
104: How often do you or your mate leave the house after a fight?	0	1	2	3	4	5
105: How often do things between you and your partner go well?	0	1	2	3	4	5
106: Do you confide in your partner?	0	1	2	3	4	5
107: Do you ever regret that you married or lived together?	0	1	2	3	4	5
108: How often do you and your partner quarrel?	0	1	2	3	4	5
109: How often do you and your partner get on each others nerves?	0	1	2	3	4	5

Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationship during the past week. (Circle yes or no).

110: Being too tired for sex

0. yes

1. no

111: Not showing love

0. yes

1. no

112: The dots on the following line represent different degrees of happiness in your relationship. The middle point "happy", represents the degree of happiness expected in the average relationship. Please circle the dot which best describes the degree of happiness, all things considered, of your relationship.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Extremely Unhappy	Fairly Unhappy	A Little Unhappy	Happy	Very Happy	Extremely Happy	Perfectly Happy

113: Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship? Please circle the best description of your feelings.

1. I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.
2. I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do all I can to see that it does.
3. I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does.
4. It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing how to help it succeed.
5. It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.
6. My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going.

In addition to having disagreements couples also engage in what are generally considered to be pleasurable activities together. Please circle the most appropriate response for the following two questions.

114: Do you kiss your partner?

0. never
1. rarely
2. occasionally
3. almost every day
4. every day

115: Do you and your partner engage in outside interests together?

0. none of them
1. very few of them
2. some of them
3. most of them
4. all of them

What is your estimation of the frequency with which the following events occur between you and your partner? Please circle the most appropriate answer for your situation.

	never	less than once a month	once or twice a month	once or twice a week	once a day	more often
116: have a stimulating exchange of ideas	0	1	2	3	4	5
117: laugh together	0	1	2	3	4	5
118: calmly discuss something	0	1	2	3	4	5
119: work together on a project	0	1	2	3	4	5

Thank you for your interest. Your name and address card will be destroyed. From now on your information will be identified by number only. However, if you indicate below that you wish to see the results of this research, I will not destroy your address card until I have mailed you the results.

If being involved in this study has made you aware of any health concerns for yourselves or your baby, please contact your local public health nurse or your family physician.

Thank you once again for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Ligowski

Jane Ligowski, R.N., B.Sc.N.

Do you wish to have a summary of the results of this research?

1. yes
2. no

APPENDIX B

COMPARISON DATA FOR THE SAMPLE

Age Distributions for 1980* and 1981** Edmonton Area Study (EAS) Main Samples and for Census Canada for Edmonton[x] and for the Parenthood Transition Sample (%).

Age Category	1976 Census	EAS 1980	EAS 1981	Transition Study
20-29 yrs	33.8	33.0	32.5	85.5[+]
30-39 yrs	20.8	21.6	23.4	15.0[++]
40-49 yrs	17.2	13.1	15.1	
50-59 yrs	13.3	18.2	11.9	
60-69 yrs	8.4	8.5	10.6	
70+ yrs	6.5	5.6	6.5	

*(Northcott & Kinzel, 1980, p. 6).

**(Kinzel, 1981, p. 6).

[x](Statistics Canada, 1976).

[+]Age Category, 15-30 yrs.

[++]Age Category, 31-40 yrs.

APPENDIX C

COMPUTER PRINTOUT OF STATISTICAL RESULTS

Correlation Matrix for Research Problem Three

	BEMFEM1F	BEMFEM2F	BEMMAS1F	BEMMAS2F	FAMREL1F	FAMREL2F	ADJUST1F	ADJUST2F	BEMFEM1M	BEMFEM2M
BEMFEM1F	1.0000	0.6117	0.4542	0.3489	0.2667	-0.0394	0.3902	0.1485	0.0946	0.2605
	(30)	(28)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(29)	(28)	(28)	(27)
	P=*****	P=0.000	P=0.010	P=0.040	P=0.094	P=0.424	P=0.018	P=0.225	P=0.316	P=0.095
BEMFEM2F	0.6117	1.0000	0.3292	0.3391	0.1062	-0.3222	0.1913	0.2888	0.1930	0.2803
	(28)	(29)	(25)	(25)	(24)	(24)	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)
	P=0.000	P=*****	P=0.054	P=0.049	P=0.311	P=0.062	P=0.170	P=0.072	P=0.167	P=0.078
BEMMAS1F	0.4542	0.3292	1.0000	0.7634	0.3583	-0.3711	0.4606	0.3504	0.2766	0.2190
	(26)	(25)	(26)	(24)	(23)	(23)	(25)	(24)	(24)	(24)
	P=0.010	P=0.054	P=*****	P=0.000	P=0.047	P=0.041	P=0.010	P=0.047	P=0.095	P=0.152
BEMMAS2F	0.3489	0.3391	0.7634	1.0000	0.2475	-0.5775	0.3404	0.4274	0.3854	0.1939
	(26)	(25)	(24)	(26)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(25)	(24)	(24)
	P=0.040	P=0.049	P=0.000	P=*****	P=0.127	P=0.002	P=0.048	P=0.017	P=0.031	P=0.182
FAMREL1F	0.2667	0.1062	0.3583	0.2475	1.0000	-0.0311	0.0246	0.0211	0.1649	-0.0205
	(26)	(24)	(23)	(23)	(26)	(24)	(25)	(24)	(24)	(23)
	P=0.094	P=0.311	P=0.047	P=0.127	P=*****	P=0.443	P=0.454	P=0.461	P=0.221	P=0.463
FAMREL2F	-0.0394	-0.3222	-0.3711	-0.5775	-0.0311	1.0000	-0.0356	-0.2426	-0.2800	0.1946
	(26)	(24)	(23)	(24)	(24)	(26)	(25)	(24)	(24)	(23)
	P=0.424	P=0.062	P=0.041	P=0.002	P=0.443	P=*****	P=0.433	P=0.127	P=0.093	P=0.187
ADJUST1F	0.3902	0.1913	0.4606	0.3404	0.0246	-0.0356	1.0000	0.7559	0.0898	0.4187
	(29)	(27)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)	(29)	(28)	(27)	(26)
	P=0.018	P=0.170	P=0.010	P=0.048	P=0.454	P=0.433	P=*****	P=0.000	P=0.328	P=0.017
ADJUST2F	0.1485	0.2888	0.3504	0.4274	0.0211	-0.2426	0.7559	1.0000	0.2346	0.4794
	(28)	(27)	(24)	(25)	(24)	(24)	(28)	(29)	(27)	(26)
	P=0.225	P=0.072	P=0.047	P=0.017	P=0.461	P=0.127	P=0.000	P=*****	P=0.119	P=0.007
BEMFEM1M	0.0946	0.1930	0.2766	0.3854	0.1649	-0.2800	0.0898	0.2346	1.0000	0.5970
	(28)	(27)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(27)	(27)	(29)	(27)
	P=0.316	P=0.167	P=0.095	P=0.031	P=0.221	P=0.093	P=0.328	P=0.119	P=*****	P=0.001
BEMFEM2M	0.2605	0.2803	0.2190	0.1939	-0.0205	0.1946	0.4187	0.4794	0.5970	1.0000
	(27)	(27)	(24)	(24)	(23)	(23)	(26)	(26)	(27)	(28)
	P=0.095	P=0.078	P=0.152	P=0.182	P=0.463	P=0.187	P=0.017	P=0.007	P=0.001	P=*****
BEMMAS1M	0.3255	0.4057	-0.0933	-0.2479	-0.2124	0.2261	-0.1707	-0.1541	-0.0274	0.2905
	(28)	(27)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(25)	(27)	(27)	(28)	(27)
	P=0.046	P=0.018	P=0.332	P=0.121	P=0.159	P=0.139	P=0.197	P=0.221	P=0.445	P=0.071

Correlation Matrix for Research Problem Three - continued

	BEMFEM1F	BEMFEM2F	BEMMAS1F	BEMMAS2F	FAMREL1F	FAMREL2F	ADJUST1F	ADJUST2F	BEMFEM1M	BEMFEM2M
BEMMAS2M	0.3211	0.2371	-0.0338	-0.2317	-0.2396	0.3295	0.1516	0.1346	-0.0448	0.4174
	(27)	(25)	(23)	(23)	(23)	(24)	(26)	(25)	(26)	(25)
	P=0.051	P=0.127	P=0.439	P=0.144	P=0.135	P=0.058	P=0.230	P=0.261	P=0.414	P=0.019
FAMREL1M	-0.0070	-0.1556	0.2018	0.1552	0.2412	0.3026	0.4164	0.1271	0.0629	0.2351
	(26)	(25)	(23)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(25)	(24)	(24)	(23)
	P=0.486	P=0.229	P=0.178	P=0.240	P=0.128	P=0.071	P=0.019	P=0.277	P=0.385	P=0.140
FAMREL2M	0.0945	-0.0287	0.0443	-0.3177	-0.0736	0.4431	0.1336	0.0043	-0.1287	0.2508
	(25)	(24)	(22)	(23)	(23)	(25)	(24)	(23)	(23)	(22)
	P=0.327	P=0.447	P=0.422	P=0.070	P=0.369	P=0.013	P=0.267	P=0.492	P=0.279	P=0.130
ADJUST1M	0.3937	0.1245	0.3736	0.2379	-0.0127	0.0644	0.8030	0.6172	0.3076	0.6020
	(27)	(26)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(24)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(26)
	P=0.021	P=0.272	P=0.036	P=0.132	P=0.476	P=0.382	P=0.000	P=0.000	P=0.063	P=0.001
ADJUST2M	0.1724	0.1796	0.2255	0.2852	-0.0722	-0.1452	0.7637	0.7512	0.3592	0.6928
	(27)	(27)	(23)	(23)	(24)	(24)	(26)	(26)	(26)	(25)
	P=0.195	P=0.185	P=0.150	P=0.094	P=0.369	P=0.249	P=0.000	P=0.000	P=0.036	P=0.000

Correlation Matrix for Research Problem Three - continued

	BEMMAS1M	BEMMAS2M	FAMREL1M	FAMREL2M	ADJUST1M	ADJUST2M
BEMFEM1F	0.3255 (28) P=0.046	0.3211 (27) P=0.051	-0.0070 (26) P=0.486	0.0945 (25) P=0.327	0.3937 (27) P=0.021	0.1724 (27) P=0.195
BEMFEM2F	0.4057 (27) P=0.018	0.2371 (25) P=0.127	-0.1556 (25) P=0.229	-0.0287 (24) P=0.447	0.1245 (26) P=0.272	0.1796 (27) P=0.185
BEMMAS1F	-0.0933 (24) P=0.332	-0.0338 (23) P=0.439	0.2018 (23) P=0.178	0.0443 (22) P=0.422	0.3736 (24) P=0.036	0.2255 (23) P=0.150
BEMMAS2F	-0.2479 (24) P=0.121	-0.2317 (23) P=0.144	0.1552 (23) P=0.240	-0.3177 (23) P=0.070	0.2379 (24) P=0.132	0.2852 (23) P=0.094
FAMREL1F	-0.2124 (24) P=0.159	-0.2396 (23) P=0.135	0.2412 (24) P=0.128	-0.0736 (23) P=0.369	-0.0127 (24) P=0.476	-0.0722 (24) P=0.369
FAMREL2F	0.2261 (25) P=0.139	0.3295 (24) P=0.058	0.3026 (25) P=0.071	0.4431 (25) P=0.013	0.0644 (24) P=0.382	-0.1452 (24) P=0.249
ADJUST1F	-0.1707 (27) P=0.197	0.1516 (26) P=0.230	0.4164 (25) P=0.019	0.1336 (24) P=0.267	0.8030 (26) P=0.000	0.7637 (26) P=0.000
ADJUST2F	-0.1541 (27) P=0.221	0.1346 (25) P=0.261	0.1271 (24) P=0.277	0.0043 (23) P=0.492	0.6172 (26) P=0.000	0.7512 (26) P=0.000
BEMFEM1M	-0.0274 (28) P=0.445	-0.0448 (26) P=0.414	0.0629 (24) P=0.385	-0.1287 (23) P=0.279	0.3076 (26) P=0.063	0.3592 (26) P=0.036
BEMFEM2M	0.2905 (27) P=0.071	0.4174 (25) P=0.019	0.2351 (23) P=0.140	0.2508 (22) P=0.130	0.6020 (26) P=0.001	0.6928 (25) P=0.000
BEMMAS1M	1.0000 (29) P=*****	0.8114 (27) P=0.000	-0.3744 (25) P=0.033	0.4130 (24) P=0.022	-0.0030 (26) P=0.494	0.0771 (27) P=0.351

Correlation Matrix for Research Problem Three - continued

	BEMMAS1M	BEMMAS2M	FAMREL1M	FAMREL2M	ADJUST1M	ADJUST2M
BEMMAS2M	0.8114 (27) P=0.000	1.0000 (27) P=*****	-0.1233 (24) P=0.283	0.5293 (23) P=0.005	0.3626 (24) P=0.041	0.3484 (25) P=0.044
FAMREL1M	-0.3744 (25) P=0.033	-0.1233 (24) P=0.283	1.0000 (26) P=*****	-0.0725 (25) P=0.365	0.4255 (24) P=0.019	0.1789 (25) P=0.196
FAMREL2M	0.4130 (24) P=0.022	0.5293 (23) P=0.005	-0.0725 (25) P=0.365	1.0000 (25) P=*****	0.2029 (23) P=0.177	0.2282 (24) P=0.142
ADJUST1M	-0.0030 (26) P=0.494	0.3626 (24) P=0.041	0.4255 (24) P=0.019	0.2029 (23) P=0.177	1.0000 (28) P=*****	0.8027 (25) P=0.000
ADJUST2M	0.0771 (27) P=0.351	0.3484 (25) P=0.044	0.1789 (25) P=0.196	0.2282 (24) P=0.142	0.8027 (25) P=0.000	1.0000 (28) P=*****

Correlation Matrix for Research Problems Four & Five

	BEMFEMDM	BEMMASDM	FAMRELDM	ADJUSTDM	BEMFEMDF	BEMMASDF	FAMRELDF	ADJUSTDF	ADJUST2M	ADJUST2F
BEMFEMDM	1.0000	0.3497	0.4734	0.2071	-0.0987	-0.3950	0.4019	-0.0544	0.3664	0.2725
	(27)	(24)	(21)	(22)	(25)	(21)	(20)	(24)	(24)	(25)
	P=*****	P=0.047	P=0.015	P=0.178	P=0.319	P=0.038	P=0.040	P=0.400	P=0.039	P=0.094
BEMMASDM	0.3497	1.0000	-0.1623	-0.1651	-0.1532	-0.0658	0.1559	-0.0605	0.3830	0.4579
	(24)	(27)	(23)	(22)	(25)	(21)	(22)	(25)	(25)	(25)
	P=0.047	P=*****	P=0.230	P=0.231	P=0.232	P=0.388	P=0.244	P=0.387	P=0.029	P=0.011
FAMRELDM	0.4734	-0.1623	1.0000	0.1257	-0.0940	-0.3844	0.1587	0.0725	0.0868	-0.0670
	(21)	(23)	(25)	(22)	(24)	(21)	(23)	(23)	(24)	(23)
	P=0.015	P=0.230	P=*****	P=0.289	P=0.331	P=0.043	P=0.235	P=0.371	P=0.343	P=0.381
ADJUSTDM	0.2071	-0.1651	0.1257	1.0000	0.3965	0.2981	0.0925	0.3775	0.4685	0.3268
	(22)	(22)	(22)	(25)	(23)	(19)	(21)	(22)	(25)	(23)
	P=0.178	P=0.231	P=0.289	P=*****	P=0.031	P=0.108	P=0.345	P=0.042	P=0.009	P=0.064
BEMFEMDF	-0.0987	-0.1532	-0.0940	0.3965	1.0000	0.1622	0.1335	0.5682	-0.0507	0.0945
	(25)	(25)	(24)	(23)	(28)	(23)	(22)	(26)	(26)	(26)
	P=0.319	P=0.232	P=0.331	P=0.031	P=*****	P=0.230	P=0.277	P=0.001	P=0.403	P=0.323
BEMMASDF	-0.3950	-0.0658	-0.3844	0.2981	0.1622	1.0000	0.1096	0.1639	-0.1081	-0.0971
	(21)	(21)	(21)	(19)	(23)	(24)	(20)	(23)	(21)	(23)
	P=0.038	P=0.388	P=0.043	P=0.108	P=0.230	P=*****	P=0.323	P=0.227	P=0.320	P=0.330
FAMRELDF	0.4019	0.1559	0.1587	0.0925	0.1335	0.1096	1.0000	-0.0390	0.0230	-0.0555
	(20)	(22)	(23)	(21)	(22)	(20)	(24)	(22)	(23)	(22)
	P=0.040	P=0.244	P=0.235	P=0.345	P=0.277	P=0.323	P=*****	P=0.432	P=0.459	P=0.403
ADJUSTDF	-0.0544	-0.0605	0.0725	0.3775	0.5682	0.1639	-0.0390	1.0000	-0.0424	0.3061
	(24)	(25)	(23)	(22)	(26)	(23)	(22)	(28)	(25)	(28)
	P=0.400	P=0.387	P=0.371	P=0.042	P=0.001	P=0.227	P=0.432	P=*****	P=0.420	P=0.057
ADJUST2M	0.3664	0.3830	0.0868	0.4685	-0.0507	-0.1081	0.0230	-0.0424	1.0000	0.7512
	(24)	(25)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(21)	(23)	(25)	(28)	(26)
	P=0.039	P=0.029	P=0.343	P=0.009	P=0.403	P=0.320	P=0.459	P=0.420	P=*****	P=0.000
ADJUST2F	0.2725	0.4579	-0.0670	0.3268	0.0945	-0.0971	-0.0555	0.3061	0.7512	1.0000
	(25)	(25)	(23)	(23)	(26)	(23)	(22)	(28)	(26)	(29)
	P=0.094	P=0.011	P=0.381	P=0.064	P=0.323	P=0.330	P=0.403	P=0.057	P=0.000	P=*****